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Volume 78, No. 37 ©SS 2019

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar died in Bamako, Mali, in 2017.



Marine Raider pleads guilty in death of Green Beret

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Va. — Marine Raider Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr., one of four special operators charged in the 2017 strangling death of a Green Beret in Africa, pleaded guilty Thursday to negligent homicide, admitting his role in a plot to embarrass the soldier.

Maxwell accepted a plea deal from prosecutors to avoid more serious charges, including murder, in the June 4, 2017, death of Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar. Maxwell, an Afghanistan War veteran who has served more than a decade in uniform, is the second servicemember to plead guilty to charges in Melgar's death, which they described as the result of a juvenile hazing attempt gone bad.

"We created a plan and acted out that plan — a ridiculous and harmful, abusive trick ... [designed] to humiliate Melgar," Maxwell told the military judge, Marine Col. Glen Hines.

Maxwell agreed to plead guilty to charges of negligent homicide, conspiracy, hazing, burglary, obstruction of justice and making false official statements. Negligent homicide is the lowest charge of criminal homicide within military law, but it carries a maximum penalty that includes three years in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

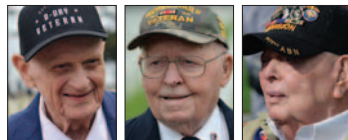
Hines will sentence Maxwell after hearing testimony during a sentencing trial expected to begin Thursday afternoon.

SEE GUILTY ON PAGE 5



D-DAY
75th ANNIVERSARY

Read more coverage from Normandy online
[stripes.com/dday](#)



From left, Carl Felton, Warren Goss and William Galbraith talk about their D-Day experiences while visiting Normandy American Cemetery on Thursday.

'Our debt to you is everlasting'

Trump, Macron thank veterans on 75th anniversary of D-Day

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — President Donald Trump honored the American and Allied troops who stormed the beaches on D-Day 75 years ago to free Europe from Nazi domination, telling the veterans at Normandy American Cemetery on Thursday that "our debt to you is everlasting."

Standing before a contingent of D-Day veterans, Trump recounted the heroics of the survivors and the thousands of Americans buried beneath the white crosses and Stars of David that stretch for acres on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach.

"For the men who sit behind me, and for the boys who rest in the field before me, your example will never ever grow old," Trump said. "The blood that they spilled, the tears that they shed, the lives that they made, the sacrifices that they made will not just roll on. Those who fought here won the future for our nation."

Trump described the many thousands of servicemembers who participated in the invasion as "the pride of our nation ... the glory of our republic."

SEE D-DAY ON PAGE 6

President Donald Trump salutes World War II veterans at the beginning of Thursday's ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day at Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

MILITARY

Pentagon says no more penalties as Niger reviews end

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan will not pursue additional punishments for military personnel involved in the 2017 ambush in Niger that led to the deaths of four American soldiers following a review of the initial probes into the attack, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

Pentagon officials also announced they would award nine valor medals for heroic actions undertaken during the six-hour firefight following the Oct. 4 ambush in a remote area of southwest Niger. The families of each of the four soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C.'s 3rd Special Forces Group killed in the attack will receive valor awards for their soldiers' actions that day.

Shanahan requested a new review earlier this year of the investigations into the ambush "to ensure every aspect of this investigation had been fully considered, including individual accountability." Owen West, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low intensity conflict, told reporters at the Pentagon on Wednesday. "After this review of the investigation by (Army) Gen. Robert Brown, the acting secretary of defense

was satisfied that appropriate individual accountability measures and organizational improvements were in place."

News of the ambush raised questions about the U.S. special operations missions in Africa. The mission faced further scrutiny after a monthlong probe into the deadly ambush resulted in reprimands doled out mostly to junior and mid-grade officers and enlisted personnel, while only one general officer was punished.

After the new review by Brown, the commander of U.S. Army Pacific, Shanahan accepted its findings on May 29, according to West.

"The department is absolutely confident after two investigations and three reviews that accountability has been rendered in this case," he said.

During the investigation, "our primary concern has been the families of the fallen," Shanahan said in a prepared statement Wednesday. "We knew we had to be thorough to ensure the right decisions were made for our servicemembers and provide the opportunity for closure to the families."

The team of some 40 American Green Berets and support soldiers and Nigerian forces was attacked by more than 100 "well-trained and well-equipped fight-



Black



Jeremiah Johnson



La David Johnson



Wright

ers" in Tongo Tongo, according to the report. Two U.S. soldiers were wounded and four were killed during the attack. Staff Sgts. Bryan Black and Dustin Wright, both Green Berets, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson and Sgt. La David Johnson were killed in the ambush. Jeremiah Johnson was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class.

Four Nigerian soldiers also died in the attack.

Nine valor awards were approved for actions during the ambush, and the investigation found the Special Forces team "served gallantly under fire," West said.

"If not for the courageous actions of several soldiers, additional loss of life likely would have occurred," he said.

Wright and La David Johnson will be posthumously awarded the Silver Star, and Black and Jeremiah Johnson will be posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor. A defense official said no one had been nominated for the Medal of Honor.

"The awards will be officially announced and presented in accordance with the families' wishes, and at a time that is appropriate to honor the actions and sacrifice associated with the valor awards," according to the Pentagon.

The only information the Pentagon gave regarding the other

five valor awards was that two additional team members will receive the Silver Star and the other medals to be awarded are a Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, and the Army Commendation Medal with "C" device for combat.

Investigators, who spent months conducting interviews and reviewing the site of the ambush, determined the Special Forces team was improperly trained for its mission and inadequately prepared to face the deadly ambush in which they found themselves outnumbered three-to-one against a heavily armed enemy force.

Senior AFRICOM officials were not aware that the team set out on a mission Oct. 3, 2017, with Nigerian troops to find a local Islamic State leader.

The mission should have included a rehearsal of the operation, further planning and high-level approval, according to the investigation.

Once the team was ambushed, fighting raged on for nearly an hour before headquarters learned the troops needed help. At that point, it took more than 45 minutes for the help to arrive, in the form of two French fighter jets that conducted four shows of force, which eventually persuaded the ISIS force to retreat.

West said the Pentagon had

implemented changes as a result of the investigation for the special operations community, which included mandating mission rehearsals and streamlining mission approval procedures.

Nine disciplinary actions were taken across the chain of command, he said, including a general officer.

While the investigation into the ambush highlighted errors in training and planning, lower-level officers were singled out for mistakes rather than senior AFRICOM and SDCOM leaders, an issue that captured the attention of then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Mattis launched a review of the initial report's findings in the months after it was completed over concerns junior troops were shouldering too much blame. That review in December 2018 resulted in the overturning of a reprimand for one of the Green Berets who survived the ambush, Army Capt. Michael Perozeno, who was the team's leader.

The Defense Department on Wednesday declined to name the nine people who were punished for their roles in the ambush.

The only information provided by a defense official was the general officer was a two-star Army Force general.

Stars and Stripes staff writer Corey Dickstein contributed to this story. kenney.caitlin@stripes.com
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Court affirms verdict in attempted abuse case

Navy captain sought to define his actions over Naples teen as lesser crime

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

A Navy captain who brought wine, a piggy bank and condoms to a purported sleeperover with an adolescent he met at a Naples base library was properly found guilty of attempting to sexually abuse and assault a child, the Navy's appellate court ruled.

The court affirmed May 29 the verdict and eight-year prison sentence handed to Capt. Alan Dorrbecker at a court-martial in Norfolk, Va., two years ago.

Dorrbecker, a married submarine commander in his 40s, had argued in his appeal that his actions could have constituted only the lesser crime of attempted enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity.

The court ruled that Dorrbecker's journal and emails to Navy investigators posing as the girl — who happened to be the daughter of Naval Criminal Investigative Service employees — demonstrated his intent to commit the crimes.

His arrival at the house for the fake sleeperover carrying condoms and lubricant was the "substantial step" toward completion of the law requires for attempted offenses, the court said.

Two of three judges on a Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals panel decided that although emails between Dorrbecker and a Navy investigator posing as the girl showed Dorrbecker would not have kissed, caressed or had intercourse with the girl unless she agreed to it, that didn't matter. The girl was 14 or 15, according to court documents.

"If an accused decided to rob a bank and drove up to the bank with a gun in furtherance of his plan, but then abandoned his plan when he saw an armed guard inside the bank, he would still be guilty of attempted bank robbery," the decision said.

A third judge disagreed with that analysis. Dorrbecker's desire to have sex with the girl "did not constitute the required criminal specific intent to commit sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor" because the evidence showed that Dorrbecker and the investigator posing as the girl had not agreed to "proceed or not with sex." They had agreed only to discuss it, court documents stated.

Dorrbecker met the girl in 2015 at the library at Naval Support Activity, Capodichino, in Naples, Italy, where she was a part-time summer hire.

Dorrbecker gave her his email so he could send her information on a website offering free books, and for the next week the two emailed each other about books, music, school and family life, according to court documents.

The girl's parents found out about the emails and agreed that Dorrbecker might be "grooming" the girl for sex. NCIS opened an investigation and a special agent assumed the girl's identity with a new email address, saying her "parents" were monitoring her old address.

Soon, Dorrbecker started emailing sexually explicit stories he called "tales of the bizarre." He did not solicit sex or ask for photos of the girl, according to court documents.

Meanwhile, the special agent, acting as the girl, told Dorrbecker that she thought about kissing him and asked if he wanted to kiss her. He said he did.

"As the NCIS operation progressed, the agent initiated sex-related discussions at an increasing rate," according to court documents.

"The appellant responded to (the girl's) concerns with detailed and lengthy answers that indicate he was genuinely trying to

'I cannot believe that I am conniving to betray my wife with a teenager.'

Capt. Alan Dorrbecker
journal entry, admitted as evidence



Capt. Alan Dorrbecker

be helpful to her," the documents said. "He also increasingly discussed his romantic interests in her."

Dorrbecker's journal writings and emails, all admitted as evidence, showed him wrestling with, then justifying his lust for the adolescent girl he inexplicably called "Drops."

"I cannot believe that I am conniving to betray my wife with a teenager," he wrote in his journal.

Dorrbecker thought his feelings were reciprocated. "Drops has declared her love for me in texts and strongly hinted at it in emails," he wrote.

"I know the world will large would condemn me as a monster, a pervers, someone who would prey on the innocence of youth

for my own gain," he wrote in an email. "I would lose my job, most of my life savings, be labeled as a sex offender..., lose my family - all because I want to hold you close, feel your skin, gently caress your cheek, smell the fragrance of your hair."

In November 2015, Dorrbecker suggested a rendezvous, which the special agent agreed to, but then sent regrets.

Sometime after that the agent suggested Dorrbecker join "Drops" for a sleeperover while she was dog-sitting. He agreed the idea was "very, very exciting!"

Dorrbecker was arrested as soon as he entered the house.

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US, allies test air and missile defense in Southern Europe

By NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — The U.S. military and several European allies this week conducted the first of what officials expect will be many air and missile defense exercises aimed at projecting power to thwart potential threats in the region.

Dubbed Astral Knight 2019 and led by the U.S. Air Force, the drills involved airmen, soldiers and sailors from the United States and Croatia, Italy and Slovenia at Aviano Air Base and other locations.

The message to would-be adversaries was that the allies are prepared to "meet and defeat any threat to the U.S. and our partners," Lt. Gen. Steven L. Bigham, deputy commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, said at a press conference Tuesday.

"We want our enemies to pay attention," he said. "We also want this exercise to serve as assurance to our allies that together we can defend our assets and deter our adversaries."

The U.S. has been positioning American troops and equipment on NATO's eastern borders to reassure allies and bolster defenses following Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

In recent years, Moscow has also increasingly projected military and diplomatic power along the Mediterranean, including in Syria, where it is conducting its first military intervention outside the borders of the former Soviet Union since the end of the Cold War.

Russia has also sent a naval task force to



NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

An F-35A Lightning II stealth fighter sits on the Aviano Air Base, Italy, flight line during the Astral Knight exercise.

patrol the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

The goal of this week's exercise was to improve cooperation among air, land, sea and cyber forces and integrate their overlapping operations, officials said.

Testing and drilling air and missile defenses is "crucial to be able to respond to regional threats," Maj. Gen. Silvano Frigerio, commander of Italy's Combat Forces Command in Milan, said during Tuesday's press conference.

U.S. Army Europe provided troops and equipment, including the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's Patriot missile system.

It's "the most dependable and most lethal weapon system needed in the battlefield," said Col. David E. Shank, commander of the 10th AAMDC.

Simulated Terminal High Altitude Area



JOSHUA R.M. DEWBERRY/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A U.S. and Italian air force formation consisting of F-35 Lightning IIs, F-16 Fighting Falcons and a B-52 Stratofortress fly over the Adriatic Sea on Tuesday during the exercise.

Defense, or THAAD, missile systems were also plugged into the exercise, Shank said, and fire control officers were attached to partner units.

"If conflict ever occurs, we will be alongside our partner nations, so the challenge for us is to test the interoperability and ability to communicate while exercising command and control," Shank said.

U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons and F-35 Lightning IIs operating out of Aviano also took part. The F-35s came from the 421st Fighter Squadron out of Hill Air Force Base, Utah — the third and final squadron of the 388th Fighter Wing to receive the fifth-generation stealth fighter jets.

Despite reliability issues and a life expectancy shorter than originally expected, officials said they are confident in the

F-35.

"The aircraft has seen its share of growing pains, but it's like anything else," said Lt. Col. Christopher Eberth, deputy commander of the wing's 388th Operations Group. "As new updates are integrated, greater reliability in the aircraft has been noticed."

The Italian air force also flew its F-35s, along with Eurofighter Typhoons. "We are proud to say that Italy was the first European country to bring the F-35 into full operation," Frigerio said.

American B-52 Stratofortresses, KC-135 Stratotankers and E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft also took part, operating out of various bases in Europe and the U.S., along with Croatia's MiG-21s.

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MILITARY

Sailor convicted in sword attack at laundromat

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A petty officer from the USS McCampbell pleaded guilty to assaulting a man with a sword on base early this year and was sentenced to 10 months in the brig.

According to a plea agreement, Petty Officer 3rd Class Lucas D. Day, a damage controlman, admitted to drunk and disorderly conduct and assaulting a man with a sword Feb. 12. Day entered his plea and was convicted by a military judge May 13, according to court records.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors reduced the assault charge from assault with a dangerous weapon to assault committed by a battery. They also dropped charges of damaging military property, damaging nonmilitary property, burglary, unlawful entry into the Navy Exchange and wrongful appropriation of

three swords that did not belong to him.

Day, who has been in the Navy since August 2016, was sentenced to 10 months in confinement, reduction in rank to E-1 and forfeiture of \$1,120 in pay per month for 12 months, according to court documents.

While prosecutors declined to give further details about the case, a man claiming to be the victim of a sword attack at a base laundromat the same day posted his story in a Yokosuka Facebook group after the attack.

The victim, who was not identified in court records provided to Stars and Stripes, declined further comment when contacted this week.

In the Facebook post, he wrote that he was folding clothes at the laundromat connected to the Navy Exchange when a man "swung a mini samurai (sword) aimed at my head."

The victim added that he received a four-inch injury on his



CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

This laundromat at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, was the site of a sword attack on a man earlier this year in which a USS McCampbell petty officer pleaded guilty and was convicted.

arm as he blocked the attack, according to his Facebook post. The victim did not know the man.

He said he was able to get away after striking the attacker with a wheeled shopping cart and the cover of a laundry cart, according to the Facebook post.

Day's publicly available court records did not mention the laundromat, but Yokosuka Naval Base spokesman Randall Baucom in February said a sailor was "under investigation for aggravated assault and destruction of property

after an incident that occurred in the Navy Exchange laundromat on Feb. 12."

Day spent 88 days in pretrial confinement that will be subtracted from his 10-month sentence as time served.

The judge did not order his discharge from the service, but Navy officials have the option to administratively separate servicemembers if they so choose.

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West Point cadet killed, 22 others hurt in accident

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A West Point cadet died in a military vehicle accident in New York and 22 other cadets and soldiers were injured, the U.S. Military Academy announced Thursday.

About 6:45 a.m., a truck known as a light medium tactical vehicle was involved in an accident off Route 293, according to a statement from West Point. The vehicle overturned on a dirt road, according to The Associated Press.

The school's Twitter feed reported the incident occurred near the Camp Natural Bridge training site, which is about 8 miles from the campus.

Twenty cadets and two soldiers who were injured in the accident were taken to local hospitals.

Soldiers from Task Force 1-28, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga., were involved in the incident, confirmed Kevin Larson, a spokesman at Fort Stewart, Ga., where the division's headquarters is based. The soldiers are at West Point to support cadet summer leadership training.

The incident happened during annual summer training, according to an ABC News report.

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Navy recovers C-2A wreckage from 2017 crash

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy has recovered the C-2A Greyhound that crashed in 2017 in the Philippine Sea while en route to the USS Ronald Reagan, killing three sailors, according to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

A Navy salvage team on May 21 used a contracted vessel to recover the aircraft, Pacific Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Nate Christensen said in an email to Stars and Stripes Thursday.

The aircraft had been submerged since the Nov. 22, 2017, crash that killed its pilot, Lt. Steven Combs; Seaman Matthew Chialastri, an aviation boatswain's mate; and Seaman Apprentice Bryan Grosso, an aviation ordnance technician. Eight passengers and crew survived the crash and were rescued by helicopter.

The story was first reported by U.S. Naval Institute News.

A Navy official said the service is "not publicly discussing disposition of remains out of consideration for the families," adding that the sailors' families were notified of the findings.

The Greyhound, which was assigned to the Reagan strike group's Carrier Air Wing 5, was carrying cargo and the 11 passengers and crew from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, to the aircraft carrier when it crashed. The Navy spent two days search-



SKYLAR OKERMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The wreckage of a C-2A Greyhound like the one shown above has been recovered by a U.S. Navy salvage team. The plane crashed into the Philippine Sea in 2017, killing three sailors.

ing for the three missing sailors across nearly 1,000 square nautical miles.

The Yokosuka-based Ronald Reagan was participating in an annual field training exercise with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force at the time of the crash.

Recovery efforts began in December 2017 using towed pinger locator operations. A year later, a team of deep-water salvage experts found the Greyhound near the crash site on Dec. 29, 2018, a Navy official told Stars and Stripes.

The Navy in January 2018 said the Greyhound had sunk to a depth of about 18,500 feet, making the recovery operation the

deepest ever attempted.

The team identified "two major pieces" of the aircraft and its black box on Feb. 5, leading to the May recovery, the Navy official said.

The Navy has not announced an official cause of the crash, but two Navy officials told Stars and Stripes in 2017 that the Greyhound may have been subject to a rare double-engine failure — though the cause of that was unclear. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Combs' flight skills were heralded as the reason most of those on board survived the crash. Cmdr. Ronald Flanders, a Naval

The Navy in January 2018 said the Greyhound had sunk to a depth of about 18,500 feet, making the recovery operation the deepest ever attempted.

Air Forces spokesman, said soon after the crash that Combs' surviving co-pilot reported that Combs "flew the hell out of that plane."

"Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families, friends and shipmates of our three fallen sailors," Christensen said in an email to Stars and Stripes Thursday.

The 2017 Greyhound crash ended a deadly year for the Navy in the Pacific.

In June 2017, seven sailors were killed aboard the USS Fitzgerald during a collision with a merchant ship south of Japan. Another 10 sailors died aboard the USS John S. McCain in August 2017 in a collision with an oil tanker near the Strait of Malacca.

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MILITARY

Guilty: Details of Maxwell's plea agreement not immediately known

FROM FRONT PAGE

The first servicemember to plead guilty in Melgar's death, Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews, received one year in prison, a two-grade reduction in rank and a bad conduct discharge on May 16 after striking a deal with prosecutors to avoid more serious punishment. He pleaded guilty to charges that he conspired to commit an assault and battery, unlawful entry and that he obstructed justice by lying to investigators about who was involved in Melgar's death.

As part of his plea deal, Matthews agreed to testify in court-martial against the other special operators charged in Melgar's death. It was not immediately clear what stipulations Maxwell agreed to in his deal. Those details can be revealed publicly only after the judge determines his sentence.

The one-year sentence in Matthews' case was the maximum time the judge could impose because his case was conducted in a lower-level special court-martial. Maxwell faces a felony-level general court-martial.

In addition to Maxwell and Matthews, Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Tony DeDolph and Marine Raider Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez face charges in Melgar's death. DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez face murder charges and have yet to make court appearances in the case, according to the Navy.

Maxwell's testimony Thursday morning largely matched Matthews' testimony.

In court last month, Matthews said the four special operators hatched a "juvenile" plan over late night dinner and drinks in the Malian capital of Bamako in retaliation for perceived slights to the Marines by Melgar and over poor performance issues that they claimed the Green Beret displayed in Africa. With a sledgehammer, the four broke into

Melgar's room with the intention of duct-taping his hands and feet and videotaping him, which was meant to embarrass him, Matthews said.

But when Melgar was placed in a headlock by DeDolph, the Green Beret lost consciousness, Matthews said. He was declared dead at a hospital later that day.

Maxwell said the entire incident lasted only minutes. He described the group, which included the four charged special operators and a British national and two local Malian security guards, as rehearsing the act before Madera-Rodriguez broke through Melgar's door with the sledgehammer.

Maxwell and Matthews said the group received permission from Melgar's supervisor before carrying out the hazing act.

The Washington Post on Wednesday reported, citing leaked court documents, that the group also planned for one of the Malian security guards to commit a sexual assault on Melgar while he was unconscious. Those details were not discussed in court Thursday morning.

Maxwell and Matthews admitted in court that they obstructed justice, explaining the group coordinated a false narrative fed to commanders and investigators in an attempt to clear the two Marines and avoid serious charges.

The group told officials probing Melgar's death that the Green Beret had gone into shock while wrestling with Matthews and DeDolph, a former professional mixed martial arts fighter. The four told investigators the two Marines were not in the room when Melgar lost consciousness.

The two SEALs "wanted to make sure there was no responsibility for [the two Marines] for the death of Logan," Maxwell said. "They wanted to face probably just some negligence charges for Matthews and DeDolph."

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Troops charged in Green Beret's death planned to record him being assaulted

By DAN LAMOTHE

The Washington Post

Four elite U.S. Special Operations troops charged in the death of a Green Beret in Mali plotted to record him being sexually assaulted as part of a plan to embarrass him through hazing, according to one of the accused servicemembers.

Marine Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell said in a written stipulation of facts submitted for the case that the plan included bursting into Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar's bedroom before dawn in the capital city of Bamako with a sledgehammer, choking him until he fell unconscious, tying him up and recording the assault on video.

Maxwell's statements roughly match the testimony of Chief Special Warfare Operator Adam Matthews, a former member of Navy SEAL Team

6, who pleaded guilty in the case last month.

Maxwell, a Marine Raider who was in Bamako to assist the SEALs, also told authorities about the sexual assault plan, according to the stipulation. A copy of it was obtained by The Washington Post and verified with two sources who are familiar with the investigation. They did so on the condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the matter.

The four servicemembers charged in the case were joined in the room by a Malian security guard and a British man who had befriended the Americans, Maxwell told authorities. The security guard was to carry out the sexual assault, while the British national planned to record it on a cellphone, Maxwell wrote.

Those accusations have not previously been disclosed.

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La. soldier sentenced to life for killing pregnant wife

Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES, La. — A 22-year-old soldier at a Louisiana Army base has been sentenced to life in prison for killing his 22-year-old pregnant wife found last October in the trunk of a car.

Logan Kyle, of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, pleaded guilty to premeditated murder and one specification of death of an unborn child during a general court-martial convened at the military base Wednesday, news outlets reported. His wife, Shelena, was also a member of the 3rd Brigade.

A military judge also ordered Kyle's rank reduced and for him to forfeit all pay and allowances. He was dishonorably discharged.

Kyle joined the Army in 2014 and had been assigned to Fort

Polk since February 2017, said Fort Polk spokeswoman Kim Reischling.

Kyle and his girlfriend, Sarah Parker, were arrested in Lake Charles last October after law enforcement learned they were driving around with a body in the trunk.

Caldesau Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso said at that time investigators believed Kyle killed his wife at their home on Fort Polk, put her in the trunk and met up with Parker. Kyle and Parker drove around, with Parker's two toddler-aged children in the car, looking for a place to dump the body.

Parker, 24, of Moss Bluff, remains jailed on counts of failure to report a homicide, obstruction of justice and contributing to the delinquency of juveniles during the commission of a felony.

D-DAY: 75TH ANNIVERSARY

D-Day: Veterans of invasion reflect on losses and sacrifices

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump joined other world leaders and surviving veterans to remember those who died in the greatest amphibious invasion in history, which led to the liberation of Western Europe after four years of Nazi occupation.

"On 6 June 1944, they joined a liberation force of awesome power and breathtaking scale," Trump told the gathering at the military cemetery. "After months of planning, the Allies had chosen this ancient coastline to mount their campaign to vanquish the wicked tyranny of the Nazi empire from the face of the earth."

"We thank you from the bottom of our hearts," he said.

Trump also praised all of the Allies who took part in the landings, including the British, Canadians, Poles and French.

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived by helicopter at the cemetery, where he and his wife greeted the president and first lady Melania Trump. France has not forgotten "what we owe to the United States of America," Macron said.

"We know what we owe to you veterans — our freedom," Macron told the veterans lining the stage. "On behalf of my nation, I want to say thank you."

"The lessons of Colleville-sur-Mer are that liberty and democracy are inseparable."

The French president also spoke of the value of alliances that grew out of World War II, such as NATO, and the need for continued American leadership today.

"The U.S. is never greater than when it is fighting for the freedom of others," Macron said.

Veteran memories

The D-Day battle came at a terrible cost, especially for the first wave of American troops

landing at Omaha Beach. In all, more than 4,400 troops died during D-Day and some 10,000 were injured. The casualties increased in the days after the beach landing as the Allies fought their way inland.

About 50 D-Day veterans gathered in Normandy to mark the anniversary of the allied invasion of France, which helped turn the tide of the war.

Warren Goss, 94, said that for years he suffered nightmares from the fighting. "It was terrible and they didn't have anything for it in those days, for [post-traumatic stress disorder]," Goss said.

Goss was among the first soldiers to land on Utah Beach. His job was to secure the beachhead so engineers could clear the beaches for landing supplies. When he went home after the war, having also fought at the Battle of the Bulge, there wasn't a lot of sympathy for what he had endured.

"The day I came home my father told me to go out and get a job. 'No one is going to feel sorry for you,' he said. And he was right," Goss said during a visit to the American cemetery.

Goss moved on with life, starting a family and homebuilding business, but the nightmares continued. Years ago, however, he traveled to the American cemetery with his children and grandchildren, which he said began the healing process.

"It changed my whole life," Goss said. "I came with my whole family and I watched the kids play on the beach and it changed everything for me. Once in a great while I still have dreams, but not often."

Carl Felton, 93, also made the trip to Normandy. During the invasion, he served as a signal man in a communication ship 100 yards off Omaha Beach. The USS Susan B. Anthony sank right next



IAN LANGSDON, POOL/AP



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: From left, first lady Melania Trump, President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte Macron, inspect a map of D-Day beaches during a ceremony Thursday at Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. Left: Standing under the statue "Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves," Trump and World War II veterans and their families listen to the national anthem.

to his ship after hitting a mine. While those sailors were saved, dead bodies from the invasion force were floating everywhere.

"It feels very solemn to be here," Felton said. "I am thinking about all the loss of life. For those that were once alive, walking around, hoping for the future. I am also thinking about all the wives, mothers, fathers, children, left behind."

More than 9,380 American war dead, mostly from the D-Day invasion and ensuing battles, are buried at the cemetery.

William Galbraith, 95, said the commemoration of the battle has motivated him to live.

"It's what's keeping me alive — to come back here," said Galbraith, who was a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne on D-Day and landed behind enemy lines.

One of the things that surprised him that day were the German tracers in the night sky.

"Every caliber must have had a different color," he said. "Green, blue, all different. I just didn't expect that."

'This is our history'

As the ceremony began, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's voice carried over the speakers as screens flashed images from the battlefield. "Your task will not be an easy one," Eisenhower said

in his message to the troops that day. Then the audience, stretching into the distance, arched in sustained applause as the faces of the D-Day vets in attendance panned across the screens.

Thousands of U.S. troops also were on hand for the ceremony, which was punctuated by volleys of ceremonial cannon fire and flyovers by allied fighter planes.

"This is our history, especially for us in U.S. Army Europe," said USAREUR chief Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, whose command wears the patch of Eisenhower's Army. "It was a great allied endeavor and it was a hard allied endeavor."

For Cavoli, the boldness of the D-Day invasion still shocks. From his hotel in Normandy, Cavoli said he looked up at the night sky, which in northern France sets late.

"It was about 12:30 a.m. I was looking out the window and it was still nearly light out. It was like twilight. That's just a little before the Pathfinders started jumping," he said. "Holy smokes, it wasn't as dark as you think. They could be seen."

On a previous visit, Cavoli said he walked in the footsteps of the troops who landed at Omaha Beach.

"I walked down to the water. It's about 400 yards out," Cavoli recalled. "You get to the water line

and turn around and look across a quarter-mile of flat, rock-hard sand and open expanse."

After making the run, D-Day troops were rewarded with "a little shingle of rock about 3-feet-high" to hide behind.

"The next thing you have to do is climb up a 200-foot bluff that is full of machine guns," Cavoli said. "The audacity to do that."

Today, at the top of the bluff are the grave markers.

"You are just overwhelmed because walking up you try to experience what these guys did and you see the result, the sacrifices."

Trump also recounted numerous examples of troops traversing the beach.

The GIs that boarded landing craft carried "on their shoulders the fate of the world," Trump said.

One of the vets singled out by Trump was former Army medic Ray Lambert, 98, who was in the first wave of troops to land at Omaha. Trump recounted the heroics of the former soldier, who was wounded twice in the invasion and is credited with saving more than a dozen lives as he rescued drowning men while shielding and treated others.

"Ray, the free world salutes you," Trump told Lambert.

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A visitor takes a photo of a grave at Normandy American Cemetery on Thursday before the ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

D-DAY: 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Statue dedicated to frogmen who prepped beaches

By SCOTT WYLAND

Stars and Stripes

U.S. frogmen slogged through choppy waves to the Normandy beaches on D-Day, demolishing mines and removing other obstacles as German soldiers fired at them from hilltop perches.

Those underwater demolition teams cleared the way for the largest amphibious assault in history on June 6, 1944, which led to the liberation of Western Europe and contributed to the defeat of Nazi Germany a year later.

The frogmen were among the first to step ashore and die. They carried out their mission despite having little defense against relentless machine gun and artillery fire.

They were among the Normandy war dead honored Thursday during a dedication of a Lone Sailor statue on a plaza overlooking Utah Beach. It was one of several ceremonies in the region commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

"The Lone Sailor monument represents all these sailors and Marines that lost their lives at sea — and what they have given to us," said Adm. James Foggo, head of the Navy's Europe and Africa command, according to a statement. "Victory in Europe would not have been possible without the determination and sacrifice of those sailors, soldiers and Marines here on Utah Beach, 75 years ago today."

The statue is one of 17 Lone Sailor monuments and is the first to be placed outside the United

States.

Foggo noted that the frogmen were the forerunners of the Navy SEALs and a crucial part of the invasion force.

The frogmen swam and waded through waters in a combat zone with no wetsuits or diving gear, submerging only as long as they could hold their breaths. The Navy adopted scuba gear in 1948 and started the SEALs in 1962.

An explosive technician named Dennis Shyroch described how the Germans cut down many who were landing, Foggo said, according to the statement.

"The ocean water around him looked like pure blood. That was sickening," But he added, "We couldn't stop doing our job."

Elisabeth Wright, the granddaughter of one of the first frogmen to come ashore, attended the ceremony.

"We are all honored to live your grandfather's story through you and hope to measure up to his sacrifice when our service is complete," Foggo said, according to the statement.

Foggo, whose father landed in Normandy with the Canadian forces, stood with German Command Sgt. Major Jürgen Stark, whose grandfather was a German soldier in World War II.

"(Stark) believes as I do," Foggo said. "That although we will never forget D-Day and World War II, we will constantly learn from the mistakes of the past to become stronger friends and Allies."

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THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

Modern invasion

People walk among vintage World War II vehicles parked on the beach during events to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Arromanches in Normandy, France, on Thursday. World leaders and veterans gathered Thursday in France to mark the anniversary.

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Presidential photo opportunity

President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron pose with a World War II veteran during the D-Day 75th anniversary ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, on Thursday.

PACIFIC

'A special place at a special time'

Alumni reflect on past 60 years as Seoul American school complex closes

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Mary Jane Swecker and her three roommates had finished studying, were dimming the lights and turning in for the night in their dormitory room when they heard what sounded like firecrackers popping and muffled booms in the distance.

It was Sunday, Jan. 21, 1968, a bitterly cold winter evening on the Seoul American High School campus, with temperatures hovering just above zero — and amid a period of political turmoil.

Early the next morning Swecker's father's driver pounded on the dormitory door. The driver handed her a note from her father and some money.

"He said they would see me in the States if we were evacuated," Swecker said. "We turned on the radio to discover what had happened the night before." A band of some 30 guerrilla fighters from North Korea had tried unsuccessfully to kill the South Korean president, Park Chung-hee, in what came to be known as the Blue House raid.

Two days later, the North seized the USS Pueblo and 82 of its sailors.

"Things got pretty exciting," Swecker said. "It was interesting times there the next few months. The stories are numerous. Kids living in a dorm in a foreign country, height of the Vietnam War ... just trying to feel like a normal kid."

Of all the schools for U.S. military dependents, Seoul American has been closest to harm's way — some 35 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone and North Korean bases just beyond.

But with the relocation of U.S. Forces Korea and the Eighth Army from Yongsan to Camp Humphreys almost complete, the Department of Defense Education Activity announced in November that the Seoul American complex would close for good this month. High school enrollment has tumbled from 618 in September 2014 to 146.

A closing ceremony took place Monday. The final high school class graduates at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Falcon Gym. The last day of school at the entire complex is June 14. Administration and staff have five minutes left to say until June 28.

"It's going to be so sad," said junior class president Hana Ro, who's lived at Yongsan and gone to Seoul American schools all her life. "It's my home. I don't know anywhere else," said Ro, who will move to Humphreys High School for her senior year.

"Same streets, same bowling alley, same tennis courts, same locker since my freshman year. It's me. Everything from trophies to yearbooks and all the seniors when they come back to visit. It's so bitter-sweet."

Decades of transition

The Seoul American school complex — elementary, middle and high schools — served the U.S. military community at Yongsan and metropolitan Seoul starting in fall 1959.

"A special place at a special time," said Gil Mueller, a former longtime Seoul American High School journalism and government instructor. "DODEA kids were on the front lines of the Cold War. The teachers taught it hands on."

Housed at first in a group of Quonset huts near the old Army Community Services building on Yongsan's South Post, Seoul American was a dormitory school from 1960 to 1967. Today's brick buildings opened in September 1982.

During that time, South Korea transitioned from a quasi-military autocracy in the 1960s and 1970s to a full-fledged democracy in the 1980s and one of East Asia's most vibrant economies.

Seoul American stayed open through numerous troubling incidents, including the Pueblo seizure, the Blue House raid, Park's assassination in 1979 and scores of demonstrations and accompanying tear gas.

Aside from the occasional bomb threat, only on 9/11 did the schools close, when virtually every military installation and DODEA school worldwide shuttered for nearly a week.

"[The schools] did not overreact; the command did not overreact," said Bob Collins, 69, a retired Army master sergeant who has been in Korea for more than 30 years.

He was chief of strategy for the Combined Forces Command in the 1990s and 2000s. His son Aaron attended Seoul American, joined the Army and lived and worked in South Korea. Bob Collins lives in Songtan and writes books about North Korean politics and human rights.

Yongsan is "such a tight-knit community," Collins said. "Life-style safety, convenience, closeness — all great, all compact. And you're as safe as in your mother's arms."

Sabrina Kim, a Seoul American High School senior and student council president, agreed.

"You can literally walk out the gate and five minutes later be on a subway and go anywhere," she



Stars and Stripes photos

Seoul American High School students giggle in class in 1960.



Seoul American students sample Korean rice puffs outside the school at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, in April 1976.

said. "The transportation is great. The food. You can picnic on the Han River."

While some "hairly" times passed in Seoul, "after a while, you start ignoring the saber rattling and recognize it for what it is," said Bob Heckerl, 57, who's been teaching in the Seoul American schools for 23 years.

Early days, dorm stays

Seoul was still recovering from three years of war when Seoul American started to educate students living on Army and Air Force installations stretching from Suwon to Busan. Students would commute between their homes and Seoul each weekend via train.

As Korea's economy burgeoned in the mid- to late 1980s, infrastructure improvements, such as widening the country's main Kyongju Expressway, construction slowed what had been nominally a one-hour ride between Osan Air Base and Yongsan to as many as four hours in either direction.

More schools opened as time went by — in 1967 the Taegu and Pusan American schools, and in Osan an elementary school in 1980 and a high school in 1995.

In the 1960s, Seoul American students lived in dormitories, watched over by dorm dads and moms like Michael and Arline O'Brien, who met as Seoul American teachers in 1963 and married five years later. At first, they said, they were antsy about the situation on the peninsula, but they adjusted over time.

"People used to ask, how could we stay here?" said Arline, who with Michael now lives in Hilo, Hawaii. "It wasn't that scary. Once you figure it out: OK, do I want to be here? Yes. Am I willing

to take the chances? Yes. Don't worry about it and get all nervous and jerky."

Dorm parents took on the same responsibility as real parents, the O'Briens said.

"You had to be thinking constantly to avoid problems," Arline said. "You did what you could; if you knew something was going on, you'd work it so the kids wouldn't be in trouble, but they wouldn't feel cheated."

George May, class of 1976, started out at Seoul American living in the dorms during his elementary years and then moved to metropolitan Seoul.

"I had 'Brah O' for my second-grade art teacher" in fall 1964, May said, referring to Michael O'Brien.

O'Brien taught May tie-dye in middle school and photography in high school. May happened to be on one of his biannual visits to Seoul when O'Brien and his wife prepared to retire to Hawaii in 1997.

"We're still in touch with so many of those people," Michael O'Brien said. "They've even been here to visit us in Hawaii."

Unique school

Michelle Pell, who taught at Seoul American from 1993 to 2005 and now teaches at Daegu Middle-High School, offered three reasons Seoul American stands out: its student achievement, its heart and its generosity.

"In a class of 125 seniors, 75 would be in [advanced placement literature], the rest in regular English," Pell said.

In times of need, the students at Seoul American stepped up, Pell said.

After 9/11, "my kids were feeling helpless and lost," she said.

Through a school program that she sponsored called Renaissance, Pell organized a student walkathon that extended to the elementary school, the Eighth Army Band and Gen. Thomas Schwartz, at the time the commander of USFK.

"We raised \$25,000, which was donated to two scholarship funds for the children of people killed in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon," Pell said.

Two years later, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, they raised another \$30,000 that was donated to scholarships for students whose parents were killed in the Iraq War, Pell said.

"Those are the greatest teaching experiences of my life," Pell said. "I still get tears thinking about it."

Sunset days

Seoul American is in its final days. At the school library, only empty shelves remain; the books have been boxed up and sent to the other schools. The last regularly scheduled high school classes ended May 29.

Longtime school librarian Charles Woodruff, 65, a retired Army first sergeant, said that where possible, plaques and photos will be returned to families in the United States.

Sports trophies and high school title banners will be sent to the American Overseas Schools Historical Society in Wichita, Kan. Seoul American High School won Far East banners in all sports but track and field.

Seoul American teams last appeared in the DODEA-Pacific Far East spring sports tournaments. Softball player Priscilla Bright had a bow designed for the team with each of the players' first names and the years 1959-2019 printed on each.

"I was really up to do that because I love history and I began to think of all the softball teams that played on those fields before us and thought that it would be a fun thing if we represented all of those before us in our last year," said Bright, a senior.

All that's left to do is the final graduation, the last day of school, the cleanup and lockdown.

"As the days go by, everyone's starting to feel the emptiness," said Kim, the student council president. "It really hurts my heart. It makes me want to cry."

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PACIFIC

Taiwan confirms request for US arms sale

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan confirmed Thursday it has asked to purchase more than 100 tanks from the U.S., along with air defense and anti-tank missile systems, in a major potential arms sale that drew an immediate protest from China.

A Defense Ministry statement said it has submitted a letter of request for 108 cutting-edge M1A2 Abrams tanks, 1,240 TOW anti-armor missiles, 409 Javelin anti-tank missiles and 250 Stinger man-portable air defense systems.

The request is proceeding "as normal," it said. It wasn't clear when the official request had been issued, after which the U.S. has 120 days to respond.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that China firmly opposes U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

"This position is consistent and clear," he said at the ministry's daily briefing. "We urge the U.S. to fully understand the high sensitivity and serious harm of the issue of arms sales to Taiwan and abide by the one-China principle."

China considers self-governing Taiwan part of its territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. It says U.S. arms sales to the island constitute both interference in its internal affairs and a betrayal of earlier commitments made by Washington to Beijing.



CHIANG YING-YING/AP

Taiwanese artillerywomen pose during the annual Han Kuang exercises in Pingtung County, Southern Taiwan, last month. Taiwan has confirmed a request for a major arms purchase from the U.S., drawing the ire of China.

The U.S. is the main supplier of weapons to Taiwan, and earlier reports have said Taiwan is also seeking 66 F-16 fighter jets in the most advanced "V" configuration.

President Tsai Ing-wen said in March

that Taiwan was seeking tanks and jet fighters but didn't provide any details.

At a public appearance Thursday, she pledged continued support for a strengthened military and said the island's ef-

forts were winning it more international support.

"We will keep on strengthening our self-defense capabilities (and) will also keep on being a contributor to regional peace," Tsai said.

The M1 Abrams would mark a significant upgrade from the aging tanks Taiwan's army now uses, while the TOW and Javelin systems would upgrade Taiwan's ability to repulse an attempt by China to land tanks and troops from across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait.

The Stingers could help boost Taiwan's defenses against China's more than 1,000 advanced fighter aircraft and 1,500 missiles pointing at the island.

Taiwan, which split from China amid civil war in 1949, has had no formal diplomatic ties with the U.S. since Washington recognized Beijing in 1979.

However, U.S. law requires it to take threats to the island seriously and to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability."

Tsai has aimed beefing up Taiwan's armed forces a central task of her administration amid increasing Chinese military threats and a campaign to increase Taiwan's diplomatic isolation and weaken its economy.

Report details risks that US military faces from China

By PAUL SONNE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military may be close to falling victim to a "deliberate, patient and robustly resourced" Chinese strategy to blunt the technological advantages of the American armed forces, a new report co-written by the Pentagon's former No. 2 official warned.

The study — written by former deputy defense secretary Robert O. Work and his former special assistant, Greg Grant — details what the authors describe as a five-pronged Chinese strategy to end and ultimately outstrip the American military's technological superiority. The goal in the short term is to make it too costly for Washington to intervene in the Western Pacific, and to eventually become the world's premier military force, according to the study.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army has been patiently stalking the U.S. military for two decades," the report says. "It has studied the preferred American way of war and devised a strategy to exploit its weaknesses and offset its strengths — particularly its military-technological strengths."

China, the report adds, "appears increasingly close to achieving technological parity with U.S. operational systems and has a plan to achieve technological superiority."

Published by the Center for a New American Security, or CNAS, the study comes as an increasing number of current and former Pentagon officials sound

alarm bells about what they say China's rising military might portend for a United States that has grown accustomed to unrivaled military superiority.

Gen. Paul Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has warned that the Chinese military could reach technological parity with the United States in the early 2020s and outpace the Pentagon in the 2030s if the U.S. military doesn't respond to the challenge.

A study late last year conducted by former top Republican and Democratic officials at the behest of Congress concluded that the U.S. had lost its military edge to a dangerous degree and could lose a war against China in certain scenarios.

In early 2018, the Trump administration rolled out a new National Defense Strategy. It called on the American military to shift its emphasis away from counterterrorism, which has been the primary focus since the Sept. 11 attacks, and instead concentrate on "great power competition" with China and Russia.

The new national defense strategy built on and added clarity to an initiative that Work spearheaded at the Pentagon beginning in late 2014 known as the "Third Offset." That strategy called upon the United States to maintain its military edge by renewing a focus on technological innovation, but it didn't single out China or Russia as pacing threats or competitors.

In the CNAS report, Work and Grant say that, in retrospect, the Pentagon should have specified that the key aim of the Third Offset was to upset China's effort to undermine the American mili-

tary's technological dominance.

Work, speaking in an interview with The Washington Post, said the Obama administration wasn't comfortable making such a bold case against China in the strategy because top officials didn't want to overhype the competition and bring about a new Cold War or a destabilizing arms race.

In their report, Work and Grant detail five lines of effort they say the Chinese government has pursued in recent decades with the goal of blunting the American military's technological edge.

According to the study, the Chinese have employed industrial and technical espionage; developed concepts and capabilities

to exploit vulnerabilities in the U.S. battle network; amassed an arsenal of long-range precision missiles; developed "black capabilities" to surprise the United States in the event of a conflict; and undertaken efforts to become a world leader in artificial intelligence and integrate the technology into their military.

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MILITARY

Fort Hood plans to recognize 'Hug Lady'

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — No matter what unknown circumstances lay ahead for soldiers as they deployed from Fort Hood, they could always rely on one thing — Elizabeth Laird would see them off with a hug and be right there with another when they returned home.

Better known to soldiers at the Texas base as the "Hug Lady," Laird was a fixture for about 12 years at the terminal at Robert Gray Army Airfield.

"It's just nice to have somebody there for you when you leave and when you go," said Sgt. Christopher Peckham, a Chinook helicopter mechanic at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia. While stationed at Fort Hood, he received a hug from Laird to and from a rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin in California.

"A lot of soldiers don't have immediate family where they are stationed, especially the single guys," Peckham said. "It's a local comfort when you are leaving somewhere and return back after an extended period of time."

It didn't matter the time of day or whether it was a holiday, Laird was there, often wearing boots, a belted dress and a yellow hair ribbon adorned with military pins. She took her time, smiling, offering prayers and speaking to each soldier as she hugged them goodbye, her delicate, grandmotherly demeanor a sharp contrast to the soldiers weighed down by bulging backpacks and rifles.

Laird's mission at Fort Hood ended on Christmas Eve 2015 when she died at age 83 after a bout with breast cancer. During her time in a Killeen hospital, the Killeen Daily Herald reported soldiers visited Laird to show their gratitude and appreciation for her unwavering dedication to the troops.



RANDY STILLINGER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Maj. Gen. Lester Simpson, left, Elizabeth Laird and Command Sgt. Maj. John Sampa are seen at Fort Hood's Robert Gray Army Airfield in 2015. Laird was recognized for her service to deploying soldiers with a plaque and a dozen yellow roses.

Soldiers call for honors

Now, soldiers are once again rallying together to show their support for Laird by asking the Defense Department and Fort Hood through a Change.org petition to rename in her honor the terminal at Robert Gray Army Airfield where she spent hours offering countless hugs.

"I chose to sign the petition because of my love for her calling," said Taylor Morgan, a former sergeant who flew out of the central Texas base in 2014 for a rotation in Korea. Laird hugged him as he left and was waiting with a hug when he returned.

"I couldn't think of a more fitting homage to the woman who loved the troops so much, she just had to hug us all," he said.

Peckham started the petition, which has garnered more than 85,000 signatures in slightly more than a week. He came up with the idea for the petition while talking with a friend last month.

"Everybody I know that's deployed out of Hood obviously

knows about her. It just occurred to me one day, why hasn't anything been done?" he said. "My buddy ... was like, 'Go for it. Go to Change.org and make a petition.'"

So Peckham did. The first day that he posted the petition, he saw it had 5,000 signatures before he went to bed that night. When he woke up, it had 10,000 more.

"I expected that many signatures, just not that fast," Peckham said. "There's a lot of people that have deployed out of Hood. I expected a lot of people to know about it, but I did not expect two days after (posting the petition) having 50,000 people sign it."

But the petition to name the Fort Hood terminal for Laird has a complication — it's already named for someone else.

Though the petition is a well-intentioned call to honor a woman beloved by soldiers, the terminal, which opened in 2005, is named the George Larkin Terminal. Larkin, like Gray, the airfield's namesake, was a Doolittle Raider during World War II.



CHRIS BRIDSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Edward Bonceck gets a hug from Laird prior to boarding his flight to Afghanistan in 2013.

More so, Fort Hood officials said there is a covered plaque honoring Laird's actions in the terminal, just waiting to be unveiled at a dedication ceremony.

The petition arose while base officials worked with Laird's family to schedule a public ceremony, which will be held at 10:30 a.m. July 1 at the airfield. Fort Hood's public affairs office confirmed Wednesday. The commemorative plaque will be unveiled during the ceremony in the room where deploying soldiers gather to await their flights. That room is where Laird routinely provided words of encouragement and gave hugs to departing soldiers.

'Ordered' to hug

Laird first began hugging soldiers in 2003, according to her obituary. Her involvement at deployment flight lines started with volunteering for the Salvation Army as a way to show her appreciation for soldiers as post-9/11 conflicts escalated. That led her to hugging each soldier as they

left Fort Hood for Iraq, Afghanistan or training rotations.

Former 11 Corps and Fort Hood Command Sgt. Maj. William "Joe" Gainey "ordered" her to hug each of his troops upon leaving and returning. She continued to do so and soon was referred to by soldiers as the Hug Lady.

"This was her love — many times talking about the look in the soldier's eyes, how proud they were to serve their country to protect their loved ones at home," Laird's obituary reads.

Her service to country began decades before. In 1949, Laird enlisted in the Women in the Air Force, an auxiliary branch that allowed women to serve in limited roles in the Air Force, in her hometown of Birmingham, Ala. She served until 1951, when she got married and had a son, according to a 2012 profile of Laird in the Fort Hood Herald.

She landed in the Fort Hood area in the 1970s with her third husband, Ray Laird. Together, the couple ran a tax preparation business called Hays Pencil Will Travel. She continued to run the business after her husband died and did so until her own passing.

Laird also visited nursing homes to give residents blankets she crocheted.

Hundreds attended her funeral, including the first lady of Texas, Cecilia Abbott, reported the Killeen Daily Herald.

Peckham said he did not intend to take away honors from Larkin. He was unaware the terminal had a name. He thinks the plaque will be a fitting memorial.

"The room where she was every single time would be pretty appropriate for her to have," Peckham said. "She's definitely made an impression on many people's — soldiers and families — lives. It would be a good way for her to be remembered."

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Veteran yoga instructor touts meditation training for troops

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — The Army should start teaching soldiers meditation techniques in basic training to make them more resilient to trauma they might face in combat, according to the author of an upcoming book on military mindfulness.

"Military and Mindful: Eight Essential Elements to Manage Your Military Career and Motherhood," by Iraq War veteran Benefesh Verell, will be published in December.

The Zama-based Army spouse and former military policewoman said she became interested in meditation after attending a yoga retreat in upstate New York in 2008.

"I was a captain in the Army teaching at West Point while my husband was deployed to Iraq," she said May 30 at Zama. "I was looking after my 2½-year-old and pregnant with our daughter and working

full time and I was drowning. I was angry all the time."

Yoga and meditation helped her change her mindset, said Verell, who trained to become a yoga instructor in 2012.

"I realized I didn't have to be angry and miserable all the time," she said.

Mindfulness, according to Verell, is being present in the moment.

"Meditation and yoga help build this awareness because they focus on breathing, sensation in the body and noticing your thoughts," she said.

A person can practice mindfulness while gardening, swimming, running or doing other activities, Verell said.

"The repetition of movement in the body acts as a meditation," she said. "The person brings the attention back to the breath and sensation in the body when they notice the mind wandering away from the task."

Mindfulness techniques are already helping the Zama American Middle-High School football team, according to Carmen

Middleton, a special education teacher at the school.

For the past 18 months the team, which reached the Department of Defense Education Activity-Pacific Division II Championship game for the first time in six years last season, has been practicing mindfulness techniques before practices, she said.

Getting kids to focus these days is harder than ever with all the distractions, such as cellphones and social media, and that's where mindfulness comes in, Middleton said.

A technique used by the players involves finding an anchor point when visiting a competing school's field, she said.

"When they start to get overwhelmed

or their head is not in the game they look at their anchor point and re-center," she said.

Verell's goal is to bring mindfulness practices to the Army in a way that's accessible to troops, she said. She is also involved in training yoga instructors to work in military communities.

"People who are dealing with trauma need some way to process that," she said.

The Army offers resiliency classes for troops, but the training isn't consistent across the service, said Verell, who plans to start a mindfulness group for servicemembers on Zama and work with the military to hold workshops on other bases in Japan.

"My dream is to have mindfulness start in basic training and continue throughout the soldier's career," she said. "If you give them these skills they will be better prepared to deal with things they might face in combat."

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Verell

MILITARY

Pentagon eyes updates to discharge form

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is working to make the standard military service discharge form — the DD-214 — fully electronic and looking to implement recommendations from a recent report that would include improving the accuracy and privacy of servicemembers' records.

The Pentagon's Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness asked the Rand Corp. to conduct a review of the DD-214 because the department intends to modernize the form by making it fully electronic, so it wanted to understand which data from the form is used by different organizations and the ways to get it to them more effectively.

"There are lots of stakeholders and lots of folks who over time use the form," Patricia Mulcahy, director of officer and enlisted personnel management, said of the Rand review. "So, anything we do, we have to be very deliberate and conscientious of all those stakeholders because we want to make sure first and foremost that whatever we do is better for the member while we

continue to protect their privacy."

Originally created in the 1950s, the DD-214 is a document that servicemembers receive at the end of their service, detailing everything from their military education to the medals that they have earned and the type of discharge they received from their branch of service. The document is crucial for veterans to verify their service and to receive benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs or their local state government.

One of the major issues found in the review is the different ways that the services fill the form with data, leading to inaccurate information.

The Rand report found there are no policies regarding what record systems the services should use to populate the form and how to do it, "so each service has different systems and methods, some of which are more advanced than others."

The military services are now working to bring their records into the Integrated Pay and Personnel Systems and the personnel office is coordinating alongside them to make the data from those records automatically included on the electronic

DD-214. That is expected to take three to five years, according to Mulcahy.

The Defense Department will be looking at which blocks of information in the form to update, and that starts by talking to the organizations who use various data in the form, said Kent Bauer, deputy director of officer and enlisted personnel management.

"That's probably the first target is to go back to the various organizations and say what benefits are you adjudicating off of this and what do you really need to do that," he said.

The form "should be consistent across the board, regardless of branch," Jim Marszalek, the national service director for Disabled American Veterans, said about changes he would like to see. He also believes the DD-214 should be updated to list the locations where servicemembers served "because there are a lot of benefits based upon where you serve."

The DD-214 now has a block listing "Foreign Service," where a servicemember's time overseas is noted by month and day but not location. For example, Vietnam veterans who believe they were exposed to

Agent Orange must show that they served on the ground in Vietnam, Marszalek said, and listing the Vietnam Service Medal on the DD-214 only proves they served in support of the war in some way but not necessarily that they were in Vietnam.

"So without it saying where they served, now the VA has to go and verify through military personnel records where exactly this veteran served," he said. "So I think if the DD-214 actually had the places of where these servicemembers have served, I think that will be beneficial."

Balancing who needs what information and protecting the privacy of the servicemember is a priority. The Rand report recommended the Defense Department look at ways to reduce the amount of information a veteran would have to give to organizations in order to prove their service.

"Instead of having 30 items on a form that everybody gets, maybe only five go to this organization and the other 10 go to this organization," Bauer said. "And the member and the service are the only people who can see the full gambit of information."

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Infantry officer is first woman in her division with EIB

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Despite the desert heat, dozens of soldiers in Kuwait last week earned the prestigious Expert Infantry Badge, including one of the first women to receive the decoration since women began making inroads into combat arms fields previously closed to them.

An initial field of more than 300 soldiers who started training for the weeklong skills test at Camp Buehring was narrowed to fewer than 180, including three women, who made it to the first official event — a fitness test — on May 27. About one-third of them earned the EIB six days later after completing a 12-mile ruck march and final test event earlier that morning, the Army said in a statement this week.

1st Lt. Shelby DePriest, of Fort Carson, Colo.-based 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was the only woman among the 61 finishers and the first woman in her division to earn the special skills badge since she began incorporating female infantry officers into its ranks less than two years ago.

DePriest had told her mentors that "failure is not an option," which kept her going, she said, even though it was tough to stay motivated through early mornings and late nights of training and testing.

"I had to live up to that promise," she said, DePriest, who serves as an operations battle captain. "I was absolutely terrified to go back to my office without the EIB."

She was one of just 27 from her brigade to earn the badge — another 34 from seven other units in the Central Command area of responsibility also qualified as



LIANE MATCH/Courtesy of U.S. Army

1st Lt. Shelby DePriest crosses the finish line of the Expert Infantryman Badge 12-mile ruck march, completing the last portion of EIB testing, on Saturday.

infantry experts. The 3rd ABCT hosted the test while deployed to Kuwait.

The coveted special skills badge, which the U.S. Army created during World War II to honor infantry troops, can play a significant role in a combat arms soldier's career progression. Rigorous tests, made up of nearly three-dozen pass or fail events, are conducted annually throughout the service.

Conditions in Kuwait were "extremely harsh," including 12-hour days in 110-degree heat during two weeks of training and the weeklong test, officials said.

"This EIB was harder, from a conditions standpoint, than any other that I have seen or participated in," Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Chrysler, senior NCO

for the 8th Infantry Regiment's 1st Battalion, said in the Army's statement.

Sgt. Alan Garcia, an infantryman who earned the badge last week, had some advice for others: "If you're going to go for your EIB, I recommend not doing it in Kuwait."

Still, the pass rate — about 35% — was about double the average across the Army since new standards were introduced last fall, a review of Army data from September through early March shows.

Officials at Fort Benning, Ga., which runs the testing program, could not immediately say how many U.S. women in total had passed the test, but in late 2017 the first six American women reportedly earned the badge at Fort

Bragg, N.C.

Female U.S. troops only recently became eligible to wear the badge after the Pentagon struck down regulations barring them from infantry jobs over three years ago.

Army National Guard Maj. Michelle Roberts is believed to have been the first woman to pass the test back in 2011. She only received a certificate of completion since the badge is reserved for soldiers in infantry or Special Forces job, an Army statement said at the time. At least three women in South Korean infantry units who earned the EIB since 2014 were eligible to wear it, however.

Since January 2016, the Army has transferred more than 1,000 women into combat arms specialties and at least 500 now serve in

every one of the service's active brigade combat teams, down to the company level, Army G-1 Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands said in a statement late last month.

Eighty female officers are now assigned to infantry or armor positions at Forts Carson and Bragg and three more of the Army's largest bases — Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Fort Campbell, Ky. — Seamands said, and officials plan to open assignments to women this year at Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Polk, La.; and Vicenza, Italy.

DePriest commissioned in 2017 after completing ROTC at Western Illinois University, where she was an art major, and arrived at Fort Carson in January following initial training. She welcomed the new opportunities for female soldiers.

"The Army's taking the right steps," she said. Regardless of gender, "they just want leaders to be competent."

For her, earning the EIB was a "stepping stone" that validated her readiness to take on the job of platoon leader, for which she's been groomed and coached over the past 19 months, she said. She expects to take charge of her first platoon later this month.

"I'm finally getting my time to shine," she said. "It's a really good moment."

Shortly after earning the badge for her infantry skills, she got her first Army Commendation Medal, this one for a different set of skills — her artistic abilities — employed to "brighten up Kuwait" with a unit mural on one of the base's T-walls.

"I'm bringing a little flair to the infantry world," she said.

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NATION

Trump ready to launch 5% Mexico tariffs

BY JILL COLVIN,
MATTHEW LEE
AND LUIS ALONSO LUGO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Straining to stave off threatened U.S. tariffs, Mexican and American officials claimed progress in White House talks, but President Donald Trump said Thursday that a “lot of progress” must be made to halt the import taxes he is holding out as a way to force Mexico to stanch the flow of Central American migrants flooding America’s southern border.

Talks were to resume later Thursday.

Underscoring the scope of the border problem, the Department of Homeland Security announced separately that U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border hit the highest level in more than a decade in May: 132,887 apprehensions, including a record 84,542 adults and children together, 36,838 single adults and 11,507 children traveling alone.

Trump, renewing his threat of import taxes on all Mexican goods, tweeted from Ireland that the Washington talks would continue “with the understanding that, if no agreement is reached, Tariffs at the 5% level will begin on Monday, with monthly increases as per schedule.”

“We’re having a great talk with Mexico,” Trump told reporters in Ireland before leaving for France to attend a D-Day ceremony. “We’ll see what happens. But something pretty dramatic could happen. We’ve told Mexico the tariffs go on. And I mean it too. And I’m very happy with it too.”

Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said immigration, not tariffs, was the main focus at the White House meeting, which included Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Vice President Mike Pence and other U.S.

officials.

“We are optimistic,” he said at a news conference at the Mexican Embassy.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Congress are threatening their own confrontation with Trump, warning the White House that they are ready to stand up to the president to try to block his tariffs, which they worry would spike costs to U.S. consumers, harm the economy and imperil a major pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.

The Republican president slammed Democrats in Congress, saying they don’t want to fix U.S. immigration laws. He said Congress probably won’t address immigration legislation until after the next presidential election.

Without a deal, the first tariffs — 5% taxes on imports from Mexico, eventually increasing to 25% — are to go into effect Monday, and Trump has said that is “more likely” than not to occur despite the stiff and vocal opposition from many fellow Republicans. His goal is to persuade Mexican leaders to do more to keep would-be migrants from other Central American countries from traveling across Mexico to the American border.

Most are from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, countries wracked by gangs, violence and poverty. Many of the travelers are expected to eventually request asylum.

The tariffs carry enormous economic implications for both countries, and politically they underscore a major ideological split between Trump and his party. Trump has increasingly relied on tariffs as a bludgeon to try to force other nations to bend to his will, dismissing warnings, including from fellow Republicans, about the likely impacts on American manufacturers and consumers.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron meet in Caen, France, following a ceremony Thursday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France. Trump said in an interview broadcast Wednesday that he would “not have minded” serving in Vietnam.

Trump reflects on Vietnam: He would have been ‘honored’ to serve

BY MARC FISHER
The Washington Post

Donald Trump, Selective Service registrant No. 50-63-46-580, never served in the military during the Vietnam War. Neither did 15 million other young American men who won student deferments or were otherwise disqualified.

But 9 million Americans did serve during the 11-year conflict, and the cultural and political gulf that opened between them and those who avoided involvement in a bloody, unpopular and losing war remains a festering national wound half a century later.

As world leaders gathered to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, an epic battle in a war that defined national consensus, President Donald Trump said in an interview broadcast Wednesday that he would have been “honored” to serve in Vietnam.

“I would not have minded that at all,” Trump said to British broadcaster Piers Morgan. “I would have been honored ... But I think I make up for it right now ... because we’re rebuilding our military at a level that it’s never seen before.”

The contradiction between Trump’s actions in the 1960s and his latest statement has reignited the long-simmering debate over how and why he avoided service.

And the question of how he — like two of his 2020 rivals, Sen. Bernie Sanders and former vice president Joe Biden — managed to avoid the war is now being raised by a new generation of presidential contenders who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Trump steered himself around service in Vietnam by obtaining four student deferments and one medical disqualification — something to do with a bone spur in one or both of his heels — between 1964 and 1972.

In the past, Trump has presented his avoidance of service as an accident of timing — his college years and his draft eligibility coincided with a period when the military was generous with student deferments.

“I was never a fan of that war, I’ll be honest with you,” he told Morgan. “I thought it was a terrible war; I thought it was very far away. You’re talking about Vietnam at that time — nobody ever heard of the country.”

Trump has long said he was against the war, but did not take part in any of the antiwar protests that were regular events on the University of Pennsylvania campus when he was a student.

“The bell rang and Donald Trump was hiding,” said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University who has writ-

ten often on Vietnam. “Many people are proud that they didn’t serve, saying it was an immoral war. But it’s embarrassing that President Trump is in Great Britain honoring the 75th anniversary of D-Day and pretending to be a wannabe service member in Vietnam.”

“If he wanted to, he could have easily served like John Kerry or John McCain,” the former Democratic senator from Massachusetts and Republican senator from Arizona, respectively, whose Vietnam experiences defined their later political careers.

Trump until now has presented his avoidance of the draft as a stroke of fortune.

This year, some of Trump’s younger Democratic opponents have slammed him for avoiding service. Pete Buttigieg, the South Bend, Ind., mayor who is seeking the Democratic nomination, last week called Trump “somebody who, I think it’s fairly obvious to most of us, took advantage of the fact that he was a child of a multimillionaire in order to pretend to be disabled so that somebody could go to war in his place.”

Buttigieg, 37, was an intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2013.

President wrongly says military transgender ban related to prescriptions

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said his administration reinstituted a ban against most transgender people serving in the military because some of them take prescription medicine, claiming erroneously that the armed services prohibit use of “any drugs.”

Trump was asked why he implemented the ban, which took effect in March, during an interview with ITV’s “Good Morning Britain” broadcast Wednesday.

“Because they take massive amounts of drugs, they have to,” Trump said. “You’re

not allowed to take drugs; you’re in the military you’re not allowed to take any drugs. And they have to alter the operation; they have to, they have no choice, they have to. You would actually have to break rules and regulations in order to have that.”

The military doesn’t prohibit servicemembers from taking prescription medicines, including drugs prescribed for psychotropic conditions such as depression and anxiety. The Navy, in fact, changed its policy late last year to allow pilots and other aircrew on such drugs to continue flying.

The Pentagon didn’t immediately re-

spond to a request for comment.

Some transgender people choose to take prescription hormones that change their sexual characteristics, and some also undergo sexual reassignment surgery, but the term “transgender” isn’t dependent on medical procedures.

Challenged by interviewer Piers Morgan, who said that the cost of prescription hormones for transgender servicemembers was “minuscule” compared with the Pentagon’s overall budget, Trump complained about the cost and burden of sexual reassignment surgery.

Medical services specific to transgender

people cost the military about \$8 million between 2016 and February of this year, including 161 surgical procedures, according to data reported by USA Today. The newspaper reported that about 1,524 troops had been diagnosed with gender dysphoria since July 1, 2016, when Trump’s predecessor, President Barack Obama, lifted a military ban on transgender people openly serving and allowed them to seek medical treatment.

Total military spending for health care was estimated to be about \$44 billion in fiscal 2018, according to the Pentagon’s comptroller.

NATION

Security doors blocked police from Va. gunman

By BEN FINLEY
AND DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Police responding to the deadly mass shooting at a Virginia Beach municipal building were unable to confront the gunman at one point because they didn't have the key cards needed to open doors on the second floor.

Over the radio, they desperately pleaded for the electronic cards and talked of bringing in a sledgehammer, an explosive charge or other means of breaking down the doors.

The killer was eventually gunned down and whether the delay contributed to the toll of 12 victims dead and four wounded is unclear. But the episode last week illustrated how door-lock technology that is supposed to protect people from workplace violence can hamper police and rescue workers in an emergency.

"That's definitely a blind spot that this particular shooting has shown," said Gregory Shaffer, a retired FBI agent and former member of the bureau's elite hostage rescue team. "We need to make sure that first responders have full access to the building."

The attacker, city engineer DeWayne Craddock, 40, went from floor to floor shooting his co-workers in the rampage last Friday before he was finally killed in the second floor in a gunbattle with police.

It was not clear how police finally got to Craddock. Virginia Beach police spokeswoman



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

A makeshift memorial sits at the edge of a police cordon in front of the municipal building that was the scene of a mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Va. Police responding to the May 31 shooting were unable to access the second-floor office because they did not have a key card to open the door.

Linda Kuehn said police were unavailable to talk about the matter Wednesday.

Police Chief James Cervera said the mayhem at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center lasted nearly 36 minutes from the time the gunman started shooting until police took him down.

At about the same time officers were evacuating terrified employees from the third floor, other officers were on the second floor, frantically trying to get to the gunman after he fired at them

through doors and walls. On police scanners, officers could be heard becoming exasperated as they tried unsuccessfully to get into locked areas.

"We need access keys. The doors are locked; we need access keys. I know I've got citizens in one area of the second floor I can't evacuate," said one officer.

Key cards have become a standard feature of building security at workplaces around the country. The technology has been used for decades, but it wasn't until after

9/11 that it really began to proliferate, said Tom Manger, a former police chief in Virginia and Maryland and now senior associate director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

"It became seen as best practice. And today it is seen by most people as not only best practice but as a necessity," Manger said.

But in many workplaces, security experts say, police often lack quick access to cards or codes — a situation that could cost them precious minutes in a mass shooting.

One exception is schools, which have been at the forefront in ensuring that police can quickly get inside with their own key cards or other methods.

Key card technology posed a problem for some of the police officers who responded to a shooting rampage at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013, according to a report by the city's police. Aaron Alexis, a former Navy reservist, killed 12 people before being shot dead in the mazelike, 600,000-square-foot building.

A Washington police officer "had the presence of mind" to take a building access card from a deceased security guard, allowing a team of first responders to get into secure areas, the report said.

In the case of the Virginia Beach shooting, the police department and the operations building where the shooting took place were part of the same complex, and police had to run maybe 300 yards to get there. Both the police and the departments inside the building are city agencies.

Shaffer said police are trained to break into buildings and often have the tools to do so, as the radio chatter about sledgehammers and explosives indicated, and he defended the handling of the mass shooting by the Virginia Beach force. He said police "definitely saved lives through their fast response."

"They did exactly what they were supposed to do and ran toward the gunfire," he said.

Ohio doctor charged in 25 deaths by overdose

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio doctor was charged with murder Wednesday in the deaths of 25 hospital patients who, authorities say, were killed with deliberate overdoses of painkillers, many of them administered by other medical workers on his orders.

In one of the biggest cases of its kind ever brought against an American health care professional, William Husel was accused of ordering outsize doses of the powerful painkiller fentanyl. Many of the patients who died were on ventilators and receiving palliative care. The deaths occurred between 2015 and 2018.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien compared Husel's actions to extinguishing a dwindling candle.

"That candle, while there may be just a half an inch of wax left, it'll blow that candle out, I'm causing that flame to go out sooner than it would naturally," O'Brien



KANTELE FRANK/AP

Former critical care doctor William Husel, center, pleads not guilty to murder charges in the deaths of 25 patients Wednesday in court with his defense attorney, Richard Blake, right, in Columbus, Ohio.

said.

Husel, 43, pleaded not guilty after turning himself in earlier in the day. A judge set bail at \$1 million.

The doctor is the lone defendant. Authorities are not prosecuting nurses, pharmacists and others involved in the deaths, though dozens of hospital employees have been reported to professional boards for investigation and potential disciplinary action.

Husel's lawyer said he was trying to provide "comfort care" for dying patients.

"At no time did Dr. Husel ever intend to euthanize anyone — euthanize meaning speed up death,"

defense attorney Richard Blake said. The patients were going to die whether they were being treated by Husel or another physician, Blake said.

The Columbus-area Mount Carmel Health System has publicly apologized. It issued a statement Wednesday pledging to continue cooperating with authorities and making "meaningful changes" within the system.

Husel was fired in December and stripped of his medical license after concerns about his orders were brought to the attention of officials at Mount Carmel, where he had worked for five years.

Judge: Jury can see racist content in Md. stabbing trial

Associated Press

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — Racist memes on a cellphone and a racist Facebook page can be used as evidence in the trial of a white man charged with murder and a hate crime in a black student's fatal stabbing on the University of Maryland's campus, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Sean Urbanski's attorneys argued it would deprive their client of a fair trial if jurors were to see evidence that the 24-year-old liked a Facebook page called "Alt-Reich: Nation" and had at least six photographs of racist memes on his phone.

Prince George's County prosecutors said the racist content found on Urbanski's cellphone point to a motive for the killing, indicating he stabbed Bowie State University student Richard Collins III because he was black.

"These photographs show that the defendant has a bias against black people," said deputy state's attorney Jason Abbott.

Urbanski's lawyers argued the material is inflammatory, irrelevant and inadmissible, with no connection between the content and the killing.

"Possessing racially insensitive material is not against the law," said defense attorney William Brennan, who cited a New York Times story that suggested the Facebook page was a parody.

Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Hill Jr. denied the defense's request to exclude the evidence for the trial, scheduled for July.

Urbanski is charged with first-degree murder and a hate crime in the May 2017 killing of Collins, 23, who was visiting friends when he was stabbed to death at a bus stop.

Urbanski went to the University of Maryland. Collins had been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.



Collins



Urbanski

VETERANS

Program expands vets' access to private doctors

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs on Thursday launched a major expansion of veterans' access to private doctors — a reform effort President Donald Trump has promised since his 2016 campaign but that some stakeholders think has been rushed.

The VA Mission Act, which was signed into law last June and went into effect Thursday, increases the number of veterans who are eligible to receive private-sector health care from 8% to 40% of the VA's 9.5 million patients, agency officials estimate.

Leading up to the rollout, top officials, including VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, were confident about its implementation and anticipating only minor "hiccups."

"We do expect on June 6 to be ready," Wilkie said last week in an interview. "I am confident our team across the country is ready. You know, there will be a few hiccups, but there always is in an organization that has 370,000 employees."

Several veterans organizations that helped shepherd the Mission Act through Congress said they were kept in the dark about the implementation plans and didn't know what to expect following Thursday's launch. In April, some House lawmakers and veterans groups suggested the VA delay the expansion, citing potential information technology problems.

"Speed kills," Randy Reese, executive director of Disabled American Veterans, said Tuesday. "We don't want it to be implemented so hastily that it takes away from the good it's supposed to do."

Eligibility changes

The final rules for the new program were published Wednesday in the Federal Register. They stipulate veterans who must drive more than 30 minutes to reach their VA medical facility or primary care providers — or wait longer than 20 days for an appointment — will be given the option to use a private doctor.

For specialty care, veterans can go outside the VA for medical treatment if a VA provider is longer than 60 minutes drive away or if they face a 28-day wait.

Veterans may also seek private treatment if the service that they need is unavailable at a VA facility, if they live in a state without a full-service VA medical center, if it's determined to be in their "best medical interest" or if the VA determines its service in that area doesn't meet quality standards.

The VA collected public input on the new rules before they were made final Wednesday. Some veterans groups opposed the 30-minute, 20-day standards, describing them as arbitrary and unsustainable.

The agency said this week that it didn't make any changes to the rules based on the comments it received.

"We received comments that generally opposed both the drive-time and wait-time access standards as proposed, based primarily on assertions that the access standards were arbitrary because they were not realistic, feasible, or sustainable, and VA did not conduct enough research," reads a document posted to the Federal Register. "We do not make changes based on these comments, as we believe VA's access standards as proposed were based on reasoned research and analysis and are therefore not arbitrary."

Though the VA is promising veterans more transparency about their health care, the American Psychological Association argued Wednesday that the final rules omitted key details about how the VA will determine whether private-sector doctors meet standards of high quality health care and inform veterans before they make a decision to go outside the VA.

"APA wants to ensure that veterans have true, informed consent when faced with choices about how, where and from whom to seek their mental health care — and the initial implementation of Mission Act as laid out in this final rule does not ensure that," Heather O'Beirne Kelly, director of military and veterans health policy for APA.

The VA is positing the Mission Act as "an unprecedented step forward in veteran empowerment."

The new law officially ends the Veterans Choice Program, which was created by Congress in 2014 following the VA wait-time scandal. The program allowed veterans to use private doctors when they lived more than 40 miles driving distance from a VA facility or had to wait longer than 30 days for a VA appointment.

The Choice program was implemented quickly. Many veterans thought the rules were too rigid and experienced problems setting up appointments through a third-party administrator. Private doctors went long periods without getting reimbursed by the VA, causing some of them to stop treating VA patients.

Senior VA officials said they have a plan in place with the Mission Act to reimburse private doc-



The Department of Veterans Affairs' Mission Act will allow millions of additional veterans to use private doctors if they live more than a 30-minute drive from a VA medical facility or have to wait more than 20 days for an appointment.

tors within 10 to 14 days.

"It corrects the mistake of the original Choice act," Wilkie said. "What this does is it consolidates seven community care payment systems into one, so we have an efficient way of paying our community care doctors... I think the private sector is ready. By simplifying the system, I think they'll be much more ready than they were under Choice."

Groups such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars heard from large numbers of their members when the Choice program was introduced in 2014. With the implementation of the Mission Act on Thursday, VFW leadership is concerned they could start to hear of problems again.

"We fully expect a lot of glitches and issues," said Carlos Fuentes, legislative director for the VFW. "We're certainly going to work with the VA to make sure veterans aren't harmed and delivery of care isn't impacted."

IT concerns

To gain access to private-sector doctors under the Mission Act, veterans can talk with their VA doctors, who will use a new "decision support tool" that's been shared with all VA hospitals and clinics, Wilkie explained.

"If they want something we don't have, they will go to their medical team," he said. "That veteran will sit down with his provider... The screen pops up, and the medical professional tells the veteran, 'This is what's available in our area. We can go ahead and punch this button and make an appointment for you.'"

However, the decision support tool was a source of controversy in the spring, when the U.S. Digital Service warned the system was flawed and could disrupt patient care. The U.S. Digital Service — a White House team of software developers that helps federal agencies improve their technology — recommended the VA stop its development.

The warnings were the subject of a congressional hearing in April, during which lawmakers suggested the VA

delay implementation.

Wilkie said last week that he disagreed with the U.S. Digital Service, arguing the team based its warnings on "past practices at VA."

"We've been testing this thing out for months," Wilkie said. "Our practitioners have it, our [veterans service officers] in the field have been exposed to it. I expect it to be up and running on June 6."

Disabled American Veterans suggested to the VA that it launch the support tool and the new eligibility rules on a limited basis before taking it nationwide.

"They elected to just go all in," Reese said. "Only time will tell if the hasty rollout of the new access standards and decision support tool will have quality assurance gaps or adverse consequences for our nation's veterans."

Fuentes referred back to the Forever GI Bill — improvements to veterans' education benefits that the VA enacted last year. When the agency tried to implement a portion of the changes, IT errors resulted in delayed payments to thousands of student veterans. The VFW is worried something similar could happen now.

"The key reason it failed miserably, frankly, is because the system they thought was going to be ready — they didn't test it appropriately," Fuentes said. "[With the Mission Act], they didn't keep us up to speed on whether they did their due diligence to make sure everything was ready for the go-live date. The VA told us they'd be ready without issues, but that's what they said with the Forever GI Bill. We'll have to see."

Time will tell

Though the Mission Act makes millions of additional veterans eligible for private-sector health care, the VA is expecting most veterans will opt to keep their VA medical teams.

Senior officials, speaking to reporters last week on the condition of anonymity, said the number of appointments that VA patients make with private doctors ac-

counts for about one-third of all VA appointments. They anticipate the ratio will go unchanged.

"We believe veterans will continue to choose VA," one official said.

With the Choice program, the VA faltered in its predictions of how many veterans would use private doctors, as well as the cost to taxpayers. Previous VA secretaries appealed to Congress multiple times to allot more funding for the program.

The VA contends now that its predictions have improved and the current VA budget for community care contains enough money to handle the demand.

If the demand increases, officials said their "largest stance" is not to deplete money from the VA system in order to purchase outside care — something that's been a long-standing concern among veterans groups that don't want to see the VA erode its resources.

Worries about pushing veterans' health care too far into the private sector were central to the argument about the Mission Act when Congress debated the bill. The law eventually passed both chambers with strong bipartisan support, both sides of the aisle agreeing it struck a balance between offering more private care and boosting capacity for the VA.

"We're not on a pathway to privatization," Wilkie said. "If we are, then we're doing it in a very strange way."

But concerns persist. On Thursday, Disabled American Veterans planned to look at how the VA conveys the launch of the Mission Act to veterans and whether the agency encourages veterans to use private doctors.

"The access standards are our biggest concerns, and the communication piece — whether they will drive veterans out of the system," Reese said. "In my face-to-face with (VA Under Secretary for Health) Richard Stone, he's been very compelling that he wants to have veterans choose VA. Right now, we have to give deference to the secretary and undersecretary that they're telling the truth."

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NATION

Owners of dogs may be causing pet stress

By JEREMY REHM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When dog owners go through a stressful period, they're not alone in feeling the pressure — their dogs feel it too, a new study suggests.

Dog owners experiencing long bouts of stress can transfer it to their dogs, scientists report in a study published Thursday in *Scientific Reports*.

The Swedish researchers focused on 58 people who own border collies or Shetland sheepdogs.

They examined hair from the dog owners and their dogs, looking at the concentrations of a hormone called cortisol, a chemical released into the bloodstream and absorbed by hair follicles in response to stress.

Depression, excessive physical exercise and unemployment are just a few examples of stress that can influence the amount of cortisol found in your hair, said Lina Roth, of Linköping University in Sweden.

Roth and her team found that the patterns of cortisol levels in the hair of dog owners closely matched that found in their dogs in both winter and summer months, indicating their stress levels were in sync.

She thinks the owners are influencing the dogs rather than the other way around because several human personality traits appear to affect canine cortisol levels.

The researchers don't know what causes the synchronization in cortisol levels between humans and their dogs. But a hint might lie in the fact that the link is stronger with competitive dogs than with pet pooches.

The bond formed between



WONG MAYE-E/AP

Shetland sheepdogs like this one at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York in February were part of a study that suggests dog owners can transfer their own stress to their dogs.

owner and competitive dogs during training may increase the canines' emotional reliance on their owners, she said. That in turn could increase the degree of synchronization.

But why do people influence their dogs rather than vice versa?

Perhaps people are "a more central part of the dog's life, whereas we humans also have other social networks," Roth said in an email.

The study results are no surprise, said Alicia Buttner, director of animal behavior with the Nebraska Humane Society in Omaha.

"New evidence is continually emerging, showing that people and their dogs have incredibly close bonds that resemble the ones that parents share with their children," she said in an email.

But she said there isn't enough evidence to assume that the influ-

ence goes only one way; it may go both ways.

"It's not just as simple as owner gets stressed, dog gets stressed," she said.

Many other factors could affect a person or dog's stress levels and possibly even dampen them, she said.

Buttner said cortisol levels don't necessarily indicate "bad" stress. They instead can indicate a good experience like getting ready to go for a walk, she said.

Roth and her team plan to investigate whether other dog breeds will react to their owners the same way.

In the meantime, she offered advice to minimize how much stress dog owners may be causing their pets. Dogs that play more show fewer signs of being stressed, she said.

"So just be with your dog and have fun," Roth said.

Trump halts use of fetal tissue in US research

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
AND LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration said Wednesday that it is ending medical research by government scientists that uses human fetal tissue.

The Health and Human Services Department said in a statement that government-funded research by universities that involves fetal tissue can continue for now, subject to additional scrutiny — although it also ended one major university project that used the tissue to test HIV treatments. That school — University of California, San Francisco — called the decision "politically motivated."

Administration officials said the federal policy changes will not affect privately funded research.

Ending the use of fetal tissue by the National Institutes of Health has been a priority for anti-abortion activists, a core element of President Donald Trump's political base.

A senior administration official said it was the president's call. The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Research using fetal tissue has led to lifesaving advances, including development of vaccines for rubella and rabies and drugs to treat HIV. Scientists around the country denounced the decision, saying that fetal tissue was critically needed for research on HIV vaccines, treatments that harness the body's immune sys-

tem to battle cancer, and other health threats, including some to fetuses themselves.

"Prohibiting valuable research that uses fetal tissue that is otherwise going to be discarded doesn't make any sense," said Dr. Lawrence Goldstein, a regenerative medicine specialist at the University of California, San Diego. "It blocks important future research vital to the development of new therapies."

The government's own top medical scientist, NIH Director Francis Collins, said as recently as last December that he believes "there's strong evidence that scientific benefits come from fetal tissue research," and that fetal tissue, rather than any alternatives, would "continue to be the mainstay" for certain types of research for the foreseeable future.

"Today, fetal tissue is still making an impact, with clinical trials underway using cells from fetal tissue to treat conditions including Parkinson's disease, ALS, and spinal cord injury," said Doug Melton, co-director of Harvard's Stem Cell Institute and president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research.

Last year, the administration announced a review of whether taxpayer dollars were being properly spent on fetal tissue research. As a result, NIH froze procurement of new tissue. On Wednesday, the administration also said it is not renewing an expiring contract with the University of California, San Francisco, that used fetal tissue to create a humanlike immune system in mice for HIV research.

6 migrants killed in Texas SUV crash after fleeing police

Associated Press

ROBSTOWN, Texas — Six migrants who had crossed the U.S. border from Mexico illegally were killed and five critically injured when a sport utility vehicle that earlier fled Texas police crashed into a drainage ditch, authorities said Wednesday.

The incident began about 10 p.m. Tuesday when police in Robstown, 220 miles southwest of Houston, tried to stop the SUV for speeding but broke off the chase when officers lost sight of the vehicle in a brushy area, Robstown Police Chief Erasmo Flores said at a Wednesday afternoon news conference.

Authorities knew nothing of the wreck until about 4 a.m., when a resident called 911 to report an injured man had come to her door, Nueces County Sheriff J.C. Hooper said. Deputies couldn't find the man, but an hour later they encountered two injured young men walking along a road who told

of the wreck, Hooper said.

The SUV was traveling as fast as 50 mph when it crashed, Nueces County sheriff's Capt. Daniel Lorberau said. Several people had to be extricated and were taken to hospitals. In addition to the dead and critically injured, three others suffered lesser injuries.

Agents with the U.S. Border Patrol responded to the scene because the victims from El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico entered the country illegally, authorities said.

The incident is the latest involving undocumented migrants who died in road wrecks while being smuggled through Texas. This kind of multi-fatality traffic crash has become more common along the U.S. 77 corridor through South Texas because of its proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, Hooper said.

"It has a classic appearance of human trafficking," he said.



COURTNEY SACCO, CORPUS CHRISTI (TEXAS) CALLER-TIMES/AP

Law enforcement personnel move a vehicle as they investigate a fatal wreck that left six migrants dead and several others injured outside Robstown, Texas, on Wednesday.



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WORLD

German nurse gets life sentence for murders

Associated Press

BERLIN — Niels Hoegel liked to bring about cardiac arrests in his patients by injecting them with overdoses of heart medication and other drugs because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them. Sometimes he succeeded in bringing them back, but in at least 87 cases they died, making him what is believed to be modern Germany's most prolific serial killer.



Hoegel

him to life in prison. He had earlier been convicted of two other killings.

"Your guilt is incomprehensible," presiding judge Sebastian Buehrmann said as he handed down the verdict. "I felt like an accountant of death."

Hoegel worked at a hospital in Oldenburg between 1999 and 2002 and another hospital in nearby Delmenhorst from 2003 to 2005, and the killings took place between 2000 and 2005, the dpa news agency reported.

Hoegel was convicted in 2015 of two murders and two attempted murders and is already serving a life sentence. There are no consecutive sentences in the German system, but Buehrmann noted in his verdict the "particular seriousness" of Hoegel's crimes, a finding that all but ensures he will remain incarcerated after the standard 15-year term is up.

During his first trial, Hoegel said he intentionally brought about cardiac crises in some 90 patients in Delmenhorst because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them. He later

told investigators that he also killed patients in Oldenburg.

That prompted a wider investigation involving both hospitals, and police and prosecutors reviewed more than 500 patient files and hundreds more hospital records.

They also exhumed 134 bodies from 67 cemeteries and ques-

tioned Hoegel multiple times, concluding that he had used a variety of drugs to attempt resuscitation of his patients, and was fully aware they might die.

Prosecutors noted that many of Hoegel's victims were not terminally ill patients but were on the path to recovery.

"The fact is sometimes the

worst fantasy is not enough to describe the truth," Buehrmann said.

In all, Hoegel was tried on 100 counts of murder, but the court found him not guilty on 15 counts for lack of evidence, which Buehrmann noted with regret to the family members present.

"We were not able to shine light

through part of the fog that lay over this trial," Buehrmann said. "That also fills with a certain sadness."

Pleas are not entered in the German system but during the seven-month trial, Hoegel admitted to 43 of the killings, disputed five and said he couldn't remember the other 52.

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Alarm as Ebola outbreak reaches 2,000 cases

JOHANNESBURG — The deadly Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo has surpassed 2,000 cases and is picking up speed.

The number of confirmed cases reached the milestone three times as quickly as it took to reach 1,000, experts said Tuesday. The outbreak declared in August, the second-deadliest in history, has killed more than 1,300 people in a volatile region where rebel attacks and community resistance have hurt containment efforts.

The 2,000 figure is a "sad and frustrating milestone. The insecurity is holding us back," World Health Organization spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told reporters in Geneva. Each attack keeps health workers from the crucial work of vaccinating people and tracking thousands of contacts of victims.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Kids' 'Laugh Trackers' help in choosing trips

TN NASHVILLE — Tennessee tourism officials said they've counted kids' laughs to help parents weigh their trip options.

The Department of Tourist Development said it equipped more than 200 kids with wearable "Laugh Trackers" last month for more than 450 hours.

The attractions they tried out included the Children's Museum of Memphis, Discovery Park of America in Union City, Nashville Zoo, Fall Creek Falls in Spencer, Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, Hands On! Discovery Center in Gray and Dollywood in Pigeon Forge.

More than 36,000 laughs were recorded, an average of 1.3 per minute.

Old shell from beach ID'd as ancient oyster

SC FOLLY BEACH — An old shell found on a South Carolina beach four years ago was identified as that of an ancient oyster never before found in the area.

The Post and Courier reported that College of Charleston paleontologist Robert Boessenecker deemed the shell found by Ashby Gale to belong to an ancient Ostrea coxi oyster. The newspaper said the ancient shellfish lived 3 million to 5 million years ago and findings of their remnants have been confirmed only in Florida until now.

Injured hiker rescued from mountain by helo

AZ PHOENIX — Authorities said a 74-year-old hiker whose head and face were injured in a fall on a Phoenix mountain was rescued by helicopter, with video showing her in a stretcher that spun as it was lifted toward the aircraft.

A Phoenix Fire Department crew responded to reports of an injured hiker on Piestewa Peak on Tuesday morning.

Fire officials said the woman was put in a stretcherlike device that was lifted up from the ground to the helicopter.

She was transported to a trauma center and was listed in stable condition.

Fortune cookie brings luck to lottery winner

NC RALEIGH — A North Carolina man who said he based his Powerball entry on a fortune cookie he got from his granddaughter now has a fortune to celebrate.

WRAL in Raleigh reported retired retailer Charles W. Jackson stepped forward at North Carolina Education Lottery headquarters Tuesday to claim last weekend's \$344.6 million jackpot.

Jackson chose the \$223 million lump sum payment and said he would donate some of it to several charities and give \$1 million to his brother to make good on a deal they made.



H JOHN VOORHEES III, HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA/AP

Missed landing

A battery-powered glider, flown by a local business owner, crashed into a house Tuesday while making its approach to Danbury Airport in Danbury, Conn. Officials said the pilot sustained minor injuries. A mother and her two children in the house were scared but not hurt.

Jackson said he hopes the windfall doesn't change him.

He added, "I'm still going to wear my jeans — maybe newer ones."

Sheriff to auction abandoned '69 GTX

MI SUTTONS BAY — A sheriff's office in northern Michigan is auctioning some rare muscle: a 1969 Plymouth GTX convertible.

Leelanau County Undersheriff Steve Morgan said the car probably was stored for decades. The odometer shows less than 21,000 miles. The two-door GTX is known as a muscle car for its powerful engine.

Morgan said investigators searched the vehicle's identifica-

tion number but couldn't find an owner.

The car will be sold as-is to the highest bidder. The online auction at MITN Surplus Auction runs through June 18.

Jail disputes claim over screening policy

MO KANSAS CITY — A Missouri county legislator said a screening policy at the local jail requiring women to remove their underwear bras before entering the facility is sexist and she is demanding that it be changed.

The Kansas City Star reported that the corrections department disputes Jackson County legislator Crystal Williams' claims. Corrections director Diana Turner

said the rules implemented May 16 aim to prevent weapons and contraband from being smuggled into the Jackson County jail.

Jackson County Sheriff Darryl Forte said misinformation has been spread about the screening process and that no one has been asked to remove their underwear bras.

Man, puppy trapped in garbage truck rescued

UT PROVO — A puppy and its owner are recovering after getting trapped in a garbage truck.

Provo Police Sgt. Nisha King said Tuesday officers rescued the puppy and her 43-year-old owner earlier that morning after they got caught by the truck's compac-

THE CENSUS

10 The number of sets of twins graduating this year from Boyle County High School in Danville, Ky. Susan

Michael, the senior class coordinator on staff at Boyle County High, said she discovered that almost 10 percent of the class were twins only when she started ordering caps and gowns for graduation.

tor mechanism. The unidentified man and puppy were sleeping in a dumpster when the truck collected and compacted the bin's contents with them still inside.

Thieves take blowtorch to ATM, weld it shut

FL OKALOOSA ISLAND — Authorities said two Florida burglars thought they were clever when they used a blowtorch to break into an ATM machine, but they never hit the jackpot.

Instead, the burning heat actually welded the ATM's hinges shut.

Okaloosa County Sheriff's officials said video surveillance shows two male suspects entering the Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island. Instead of cutting the ATM with the blowtorch, authorities said the would-be thief welded the metal parts shut and the pair left with nothing.

Actress to address graduating class of 1

MA CUTTYHUNK ISLAND — The single graduating student on a tiny Massachusetts island is receiving the star treatment.

Actress and comedian Jenny Slate will speak at this month's graduation ceremony for Cuttyhunk Elementary School, a one-room schoolhouse on the island that has a year-round population of around 12.

Slate's audience will be Gwen Lynch, this year's lone graduate of the school that goes up to eighth grade, her family and other Cuttyhunk residents.

Slate played Mona-Lisa Saperstein on "Parks and Recreation" and is a former "Saturday Night Live" cast member.

Pilot, 91, claims age discrimination

ND FARGO — A longtime Fargo pilot and flight instructor said he's considering legal action to get his license back, claiming he's the victim of age discrimination.

Victor Gelking, 91, said federal regulators revoked his pilot and flight instructor licenses after he was involved in a moving violation at Hector International Airport.

KFGO reported he's accused of crossing a closed runway without permission from the control tower. Gelking said he passed his medical exams and said his age is not relevant to his license status.

From wire reports

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fiat Chrysler pulls plug on Renault merger

By ANGELA CHARLTON
AND COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

PARIS — The surprising collapse of a proposal to merge Fiat Chrysler and Renault weighed heavily on the companies' shares Thursday, with all sides casting blame for the unravelling of what had appeared like a done deal to create the world's third-largest automaker.

The French government, which is Renault's biggest shareholder, said it had asked for five more weeks to review a deal and to obtain support from Nissan, a long-time Japanese alliance partner.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles instead withdrew its merger proposal late Wednesday, citing "political conditions in France."

Shares in Renault trading 7.6% to 51.91 euros in early Paris trading, while Fiat Chrysler sank 2.8% to 11.35 euros on the Milan Stock Exchange.

The French government, which owns 15% stake of Renault, had placed four conditions on the deal — with Nissan's consent to the merger the outstanding question, according to French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

A French government official was more direct, saying that

‘FCA clearly saw too many obstacles, primarily Nissan’s reluctance.’

Karl Brauer
executive publisher at Kelly Blue Book and Autotrader

Fiat Chrysler was at fault for the merger collapse, placing "massive pressure" to quickly take the offer or leave it. The French official said France wanted to delay a vote until Tuesday to have more time to discuss it with Nissan, which had said it intended to abstain from any immediate vote. The official was not authorized to be named according to government policy.

Fiat Chrysler did not have an immediate response to the French government's version of events. In Tokyo, Nissan declined to comment.

Le Maire said that the French government's conditions for a final agreement were to complete the merger operation as part of the existing alliance between Renault and Nissan, preserve French jobs and factories, create governance respectful of the equilibrium between Renault and Fiat Chrysler and ensure participation in an electric battery ini-

tiative with Germany.

"An agreement had been reached on three of these conditions. It remained to obtain explicit support from Nissan," Le Maire said. Nissan had expressed reservations about the deal.

Fiat Chrysler said in its statement that it remained "firmly convinced of the compelling transformational rationale of a proposal," noting it had been widely well-received in markets and in the industry and would have delivered benefits to all parties.

"However it became clear that the political conditions in France do not currently exist for such a combination to proceed successfully," the statement said. "FCA will continue to deliver on its commitments through its independent strategy."

The Renault board had met Wednesday evening for a second round of deliberations on the pro-

posal for a 50-50 merger, which the carmaker said would save more than \$5.62 billion per year in purchasing expenses and costs for developing autonomous and electric vehicles. The combined company would have produced some 8.7 million vehicles a year, more than General Motors and trailing only Volkswagen and Toyota.

The merger would have created a company worth almost \$40 billion. If Nissan had gone along, it would have created the world's biggest auto company.

Most analysts praised the proposed deal, saying each side bought strengths that covered up the other's weaknesses. Now, the two companies apparently must find a new way to address any shortcomings at a time when the auto industry is in the midst of a global sales slowdown and facing enormous expenses to develop future technologies.

Karl Brauer, executive publisher at Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader, said the quick failure was unfortunate, "though it's better than having it drag on for weeks or months and then fail. FCA clearly saw too many obstacles, primarily Nissan's reluctance."

Brauer said the merger talk was likely to have affected other

boardrooms in the automotive industry where tie-ups can lead to significant savings on investments in costly technology, especially as the industry faces the transition to electric powertrains and autonomous and semi-autonomous driving.

"A reassessment of partnership opportunities was likely initiated at every major global automaker in the past eight days, and those assessments won't end with FCA's withdrawal from this deal," Brauer said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 7)	\$1.1583
Dollar buys (June 7)	€0.8633
British pound (June 7)	\$1.30
Japanese yen (June 7)	€0.0104
South Korean won (June 7)	150.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Britain (Pound)	\$1.2700
Canada (Dollar)	1.3391
China (Yuan)	6.8104
Denmark (Krone)	6.6350
Egypt (Pound)	16.7804
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1255/0.8885
Hungary (Forint)	7.8413
Israel (Shekel)	3.5981
Japan (Yen)	108.29
Kuwait (Dinar)	4.0324
Norway (Krone)	8.7205
Philippines (Peso)	51.70
Poland (Zloty)	3.80
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3606
South Korea (Won)	1.1806
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9921
Thailand (Baht)	31.32
Turkey (Lira)	5.7747

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	38
3-month bill	2.30
30-year bond	2.63

MARKET WATCH

June 5, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	207.39
Nasdaq composite	25,539.57
Standard & Poor's 500	48.36
Russell 2000	7,575.48
	22.88
	2,826.15
	-1.77
	1,506.79

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.073	\$3.460	\$3.713	\$3.402
Germany	-1.5 cents	-1.8 cents	-2.4 cents	-1.5 cents
Netherlands	—	\$4.030	\$4.242	\$4.043
Netherlands	—	-6.9 cents	-6.5 cents	-3.1 cents
U.K.	—	\$3.394	\$3.647	\$3.336
U.K.	—	-1.5 cents	-2.4 cents	-1.5 cents
Azores	—	—	\$3.634	—
Azores	—	—	-2.4 cents	—
Belgium	—	\$3.132	\$3.303	\$3.132
Belgium	—	-14.7 cents	-4.7 cents	-2.2 cents
Turkey	—	—	\$3.530	\$3.219*
Turkey	—	—	-2.4 cents	-1.5 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	—	\$3.499	—	\$3.189
Japan	—	-2.0 cents	—	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	—	\$2.859	—	\$3.189
Okinawa	—	-1.0 cents	—	-1.0 cents
South Korea	—	\$2.889	—	\$3.529
South Korea	—	-2.0 cents	—	\$3.219
Guam	—	\$2.879**	\$3.269	\$3.519
Guam	—	-1.0 cents	-2.0 cents	—

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of June 7-13

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND



Summer songs of the century (so far)

Page 24

WEEKEND: GADGETS



Pokemon Go ties it all together with cloud-based service app

By GIESON CACHO
The Mercury News

The Pokemon franchise has gotten so big across several different devices that it can be difficult managing all those pocket monsters. Since its inception, the series has spread across the Game Boy, Game Boy Advance, Nintendo 3DS and mobile phones. The fragmentation has been an issue as the titles have evolved with the technology.

The Pokemon Company has acknowledged that it's an issue and came up with a solution in Pokemon Home, which was announced recently at a Tokyo news conference. The cloud-based service app that is scheduled for release in early 2020 will allow players to manage their collection across multiple games. According to the press release, they can "trade with friends or others around the world directly from Pokemon Home." From the sound of it, the service sounds like an evolution of the Pokemon Bank.

That was a subscription-based app for the Nintendo 3DS. It allowed players to transfer Pokemon from previous Nintendo 3DS games into current ones. With the introduction of Pokemon: Let's Go, Pikachu and Pokemon: Let's Go, Eevee!, the developers had to come up with a system that can link these different systems together. It seems as if they settled on Pokemon Home as that service. From what I've heard, I assume that Pokemon Home is a way to transfer your Pokemon from the original game and bring it to future titles such as the upcoming Pokemon Sword and Pokemon Shield games.

Pokemon Home also will support Pokemon Go. Although no other details were divulged at the news conference, it'll be interesting to see how the popular mobile game will work with other titles in the series. Pokemon Home will be available on iOS and Android devices as well as the Nintendo Switch.

The other big announcement coming from the news conference is Pokemon Sleep. It's another mobile app that will track players' sleep patterns. That in turn will have an effect on gameplay of different games. It was a lead in to Pokemon Go Plus+. It's yet another device tied to Pokemon Go. It will act as an updated Pokemon Go Plus with the functionality to track sleep. To mark the news, Pokemon Go introduced sleeping Snorlaxes in a limited-time event that ended June 3.

Other details from the news conference include the announcement of Pokemon Masters, another mobile game in which players face trainers from the games and TV show. A sequel to the Detective Pikachu video game will come out on Nintendo Switch. In addition, Pokemon Quest is coming to the Chinese market and a line of made-to-order shirts featuring the original 151 Pokemon will be coming to the U.S.

GADGET WATCH

Have a robot clean the grill



GRILLBOTS/TNS

The Grillbot runs on a rechargeable battery and tackles the least fun part of grilling for you.

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

I've been grilling for years, and love it. I've also been cleaning grills for years, and hate it. The past few years, I've used a power washer with good results but it's still a chore. The Grillbot has been out for a few years but I didn't know about it, so I'll assume you didn't know about the grill cleaning robot either.

Launched in early 1994 as the world's first automatic grill-cleaning robot to make the outdoor cleaning fun, easy, entertaining and even automatic.

Using it is as easy as any other robotic vacuum; just put the Grillbot on your grill, press a button and it starts cleaning.

Inside is a rechargeable battery to power three strong electrical motors, a rechargeable Lithium battery (AC adaptor included) and replaceable wire brushes. Extra stainless steel, nylon and brass brushes start at \$14.95 for a set of three. The brushes are dishwasher safe.

There's also a smart brain, driven by a CPU chip that controls the movement, speed and direction of the brushes. An LCD timer can also be set to clean at night. Just set it, it vacuums, and you're done. The LCD also has a battery-level indicator.

Grillbot suggests that you make sure the grill has cooled to 250 degrees Fahrenheit before using it. A built-in sensor will sound an alarm and shut the vacuum down if the grill is too hot.

For charcoal grills, allow the flame to die down, open the lid and allow it to cool for at least 20 minutes. Also, make sure the grill's lid is closed while cleaning. According to Grillbot, it's designed to work on infrared, green egg-style, wrought iron, metal, gas and charcoal grills.

A nice accessory to get is the carrying case for \$19.95 for storage after cleaning.

Online: grillbots.com; \$129.95, but currently on sale for \$89.95. Available in black, blue, orange and red

We all like to cut cords, but the fact is, the quality of sound in many of today's products can diminish when we do so. But with the newly introduced Edifier S3000Pro Active 2.0 wireless studio monitor speakers, you won't hear a sound-quality reduction.

The speakers connect through Bluetooth 5.0, allowing them to be positioned anywhere left and right within range without requiring connecting the two speakers with cables. Using proprietary technology, Edifier has crafted one speaker as the lead and the other as the follower in a way that makes the audio from both speakers match perfectly even though they aren't wired together.

Inside the speakers are a 6.5-inch subwoofer and proprietary planar diaphragm tweeters.

In addition to Bluetooth, other input types include line-in, optical, coaxial and USB. A wireless remote infrared control is great for volume, bass and treble.

Sound junkies will understand the total power output provided by Edifier as R/L (Treble): 8W+8W RMS | R/L (Mid-range and bass): 120W+120W RMS.



TWELVE SOUTH/TNS

The BookArc for MacBook holds your MacBook vertically to run it as desktop.

Online: edifier.com; \$799 for two speakers and the IR remote

Twelve South, one of my favorite Apple accessory companies, has announced updates to its first-ever product; the BookArc for MacBook. By simply switching out a custom insert, their flagship product from a decade ago is now compatible with the latest from Apple.

The BookArc stand holds your MacBook vertically, allowing it to run as a desktop. Just slide your MacBook into the silicone slot, connect it to an external display and add a full-size keyboard and mouse to enjoy the comfort of a desktop setup.

The newest version of BookArc, which includes the custom fit insert for MacBook Air with Retina Display, is available at the Twelve South website along with a list of other compatible devices.

Online: twelvesouth.com; \$49.99, available in silver and space gray

The Edifier S3000Pro Active 2.0 studio monitor speakers connect wirelessly without a reduction in sound quality.

EDIFIER/TNS



WEEKEND: MUSIC



The beat goes on

Friends work to keep Avicii's legacy alive

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

Avicii was so invested and excited about his new album that even on his flight to Oman, where he later died, he was communicating with his producers about different sounds and melodies he wanted to include, and guest artists they should reach out to about collaborating.

The Swedish DJ-producer died on April 20, 2018. Months later, his family asked Avicii's musical team to complete the unfinished album.

For production duo Vargas & Logola, that wasn't so easy.

"It was hard to just even open the computer and work on the songs," said Salem Al Fakir, who goes by Logola. "We opened (the computer) like six months after everything happened."

"The family's wish was to release the songs ... and that helped us finish the songs," he added.

Thankfully because of multiple conversations, emails, text messages and more, Vargas & Logola knew what Avicii wanted his new album to sound like, and felt they were headed in the right direction.

"We spent so much time with him in the last ... three months before he passed," Logola said. "We knew how he wanted vocals," added Vincent Pontare, aka Vargas. "We've been working with him for so long. We know what he likes and what he doesn't like."

"TIM," released June 6, features collaborations with Coldplay's Chris Martin and Imagine Dragons and expands on the electronic dance music sound that made Avicii a juggernaut on the music scene and

festival circuit.

The Grammy-nominated hitmaker, born Tim Bergling, broke barriers by mixing country and western sounds with dance music on hits like "Wake Me Up" and "Hey Brother," and was part of the pack of white-hot DJ-producers-remixers who stood out as pop stars in their own right after years of working behind the scenes, from David Guetta to Calvin Harris to Skrillex.

Avicii's short life ended at 28 when he was found dead in Muscat, Oman, a popular vacation destination on the Arabian Sea. Police said there was no evidence of foul play, while Rolling Stone magazine and TMZ reported he died by suicide. (Earlier this year, Avicii's family launched the Tim Bergling Foundation, which focuses on supporting people and organizations in the field of mental illness and suicide prevention.)

Avicii had in the past suffered acute pancreatitis, in part due to excessive drinking. After having his gallbladder and appendix removed in 2014, he canceled a series of shows in attempt to recover, and in 2016 he announced he was retiring from the road.

Aloe Blacc, who collaborated with Avicii on the worldwide hit "Wake Me Up," said recording "SOS" for the new album felt like an important job because of the song's powerful meaning.

"It was really heavy, these lyrics," Blacc said. "After knowing what he'd been through, and how he was feeling extremely confident that he'd made it through the worst of his experiences in the music business, and everything was on the up and up, then getting the news that he'd passed, this song really felt like it was an important message to deliver to honor his



From top, singer Aloe Blacc, singer-songwriter Joe Janiak and production duo Vincent Pontare and Salem Al Fakir, aka Vargas & Logola contributed to Avicii's posthumous album "TIM." The album also features Coldplay's Chris Martin and Imagine Dragons.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP



TED S. WARREN/AP

ARIZONA, from left, David Labuguen, Zachary Charles and Nate Esquite, had discussed the possibility of collaborating with Avicii before his death in April 2018. The Swedish DJ-producer had begun working on their song "Hold the Line," and they were asked to complete it for "TIM," which was released June 6.

legacy. And also to really create the language for people who are in distress situations, anxiety, mental health issues — words to say, 'I need help.'"

Joe Janiak, who co-wrote four songs on "TIM" and sings on two of them, had a similar experience when he went back to finish the songs he and Avicii initially worked on together.

"The good thing was that I had Tim in my head. He was very clear about what he wanted," said Janiak, who has also written for Ellie Goulding and Britney Spears. "He'd speak to you and you knew how Tim felt about the song. For any work that I needed to finish, I knew the shapes that he was searching for."

American band ARIZONA said they had sent demos of songs they had worked on to friends — including Avicii, who they had gone back and forth with about possibly collaborating. After he died, the trio was told he had started to work on their song, "Hold the Line," and

they were asked to finish it.

"That song talks about dealing with the struggle of not wanting to push forward and keep going when times get tough," said lead singer Zachary Charles, who added that he and his bandmates have suffered from anxiety and depression.

Vargas & Logola, who had worked with Avicii since 2011 and co-wrote, co-produced and are featured guests on three songs on "TIM," said they remember seeing Avicii healthy and happy before he passed away.

"He had so much energy. We talked about how we look at the society. He was the person that didn't use his phone. He had his phone off every second we spent time together," Logola said. "He traveled abroad to Africa to try to find himself again. What we saw was a strong, healthy person that was really, really alive. That's the part that I feel is left out right now. That's what we saw of Tim and what we will always remember."

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Ranked!

The 21st century's best (and worst) songs of the summer

By MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

It happens every summer: One song, among a jukebox of contenders, rises to define the season, as heard over and over and over again at America's theme parks, pool parties, skate nights and barbecues.

But what turns a simple pop jam into the “song of the summer”? History tells us the tune can zip (think “Call Me Maybe”) or swagger (“We Belong Together”); it can be comedic (“California Gurls”) or sentimental (“In My Feelings”). Beyond those specifics, though, what it must be is inescapable.

With a new competition underway, allow us to present the definitive 2000s summer songs power rankings.

We used Billboard's statistics to determine each song of the summer since 2000 — and threw in Ed Sheeran and Justin Bieber's new duet as a top candidate for 2019. We then pitted all 20 against one another, measuring for quality (perfect to tragic) and for summeryness (in terms of subject matter and/or sound), to find out which summer songs of the millennium were true classics and which mere seasonal flings. The results below are listed in order of preference — from our favorite summer song of the 21st century to our least favorite (sorry, Rob Thomas).

On the cover: clockwise, from front, Katy Perry, Robin Thicke, Mariah Carey, Usher, Beyoncé and Iggy Azalea

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

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WEEKEND: MUSIC

FROM PAGE 24

1. Beyoncé featuring Jay-Z, 'Crazy in Love' (2003)

The lead cut from Beyoncé's debut solo album still ranks among her most delicious soul-funk jams, thanks to those percolating drums, a ripping Chi-Lites brass sample — and, of course, Beyoncé herself, whose live-wire vocal makes it easy to believe her when she insists, "You got me sprung and I don't care who sees." Jay-Z probably never felt luckier.

Summery-ness ranking: 1



Jay-Z and Beyoncé perform "Crazy in Love" during BET Awards on June 24, 2003, in Los Angeles.

2. Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber, 'Despacito (Remix)' (2017)

Already a hit in the Spanish-speaking world before Bieber jumped on it, "Despacito" finally broke through here with the addition of the teen dream's creamy vocals. Two summers later, though, it's the song's light reggaeton groove that's still echoing throughout American pop.

Summery-ness ranking: 6

Luis Fonsi

**3. Katy Perry featuring Snoop Dogg, 'California Gurls' (2010)**

A Left Coast response to Jay-Z and Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind," "California Gurls" leans no less heavily on guide-book clichés, in this case regarding sand, palm trees and "skin so hot we'll melt your popsicle." (Actually, that last one's pretty good.) But credit Perry for having the wisdom to arrange a cameo by Snoop, who shows up and rhymes "bikinis" with "zucchini."

Summery-ness ranking: 2



Katy Perry and Snoop Dogg perform at the MTV Movie Awards on June 6, 2010, in Universal City, Calif.

4. Robin Thicke featuring T.I. and Pharrell, 'Blurred Lines' (2013)

"What rhymes with 'hug me'?" Thicke famously asked in this shameless funk come-on, and the answer he got was a whole lot less pleasurable than he'd anticipated: first claims that "Blurred Lines" was "kind of rapey," as one critic put it, then a lawsuit from Marvin Gaye's family, which convinced a jury that Thicke had ripped off Gaye's "Got to Give It Up."

Summery-ness ranking: 12

5. Mariah Carey, 'We Belong Together' (2005)

Carey's big comeback single following the dicey "Glitter"/"Charmbracelet" years, "We Belong Together" dialed down the singer's signature excess for a soulful lover's plea that sounded designed to pour forth from the windows of somebody's Honda Civic. Bonus points for the cute lift from — and the classy shout-out to — the great Bobby Womack.

Summery-ness ranking: 7

6. Drake featuring Wizkid and Kyla, 'One Dance' (2016)

Breezy dancehall globalism from a Canadian superstar who understands the internet's borderlessness at any one.

Summery-ness ranking: 8

7. Drake, 'In My Feelings' (2018)

One of Drake's three No. 1 hits last year, along with "God's Plan" and "Nice for What," "In My Feelings" got there with help from a viral dance challenge that had Will Smith filming himself atop a bridge in Budapest. But the song with roots in New Orleans bounce music is also one of Drake's loveliest (which doesn't mean it's not needy as hell).

Summery-ness ranking: 17

8. Usher, 'Confessions Part II' (2004)

R&B as soap opera, in which Usher's "chick on the side" — with whom he's already admitted to stroling "hand in hand in the Beverly Center" — calls him bearing most unwelcome news: She's "three months pregnant and she's keeping it."

Summery-ness ranking: 18

9. Carly Rae Jepsen, 'Call Me Maybe' (2012)

Jepsen came out of nowhere (Canada) to burrow deep into our heads with this insistent pop number, which pulls off a neat emotional trick: While the music is charging full steam ahead, the singer is worrying that she might be coming too strong with a guy she just met. "Call me," she tells him — "maybe."

Summery-ness ranking: 10

10. Katy Perry, 'I Kissed a Girl' (2008)

Given that she jokes around these days with Lionel Richie on "American Idol," it's weird to remember that Perry spent the summer of 2008 entertaining mall punks on the Warped Tour. Listen again for her breakout hit, though, and you can easily imagine the emo road not taken.

Summery-ness ranking: 11

11. Ed Sheeran and Justin Bieber, 'I Don't Care' (2019)

A party song about hating parties, Jed Shieber's vaguely tropical bro-down exploits current pop's misanthropic streak while resting easy in the knowledge that millions of radio listeners don't pay attention to the words.

Summery-ness ranking: 3

12. Nelly, 'Hot in Herre' (2002)

Our narrator begins in medias res — "I was like, 'Good gracious' / Ass is bodacious" — then cruises the club via the scenic route as the Neptunes' go-go-inspired beat sets Vokal tank tops flying.

Summery-ness ranking: 4

13. Black Eyed Peas, 'I Gotta Feeling' (2009)

An actual couplet from this gloriously stupid song: "Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday / Friday, Saturday, Saturday to Sunday." After years of earnest coffeehouse rapping, will.i.am and his buds were ready to fill their cups with something fizzier, and for the 14 weeks this tune spent at No. 1, America drank right alongside them.

Summery-ness ranking: 9

14. Rihanna featuring Jay-Z, 'Umbrella' (2007)

Almost certainly the rainiest summer song of all time, "Umbrella" nonetheless found Rihanna at her sunniest as she rhymed "always be your friend" with "stick it out till the end."

Summery-ness ranking: 16



Rihanna, pictured in 2006.

15. Usher, 'U Remind Me' (2001)

As polished as Usher's post-MJ dance moves, "U Remind Me" used its smooth surfaces to soften a brutal message: I'm dumping you because you look too much like my ex.

Summery-ness ranking: 13

16. LMFAO feat. Lauren Bennett and GoonRock, 'Party Rock Anthem' (2011)

The only 2000s summer hit dumber than "I Gotta Feeling" — and surely the only hit ever by an uncle-and-nephew duo — LMFAO's stadium-rave throw-down wasn't created just so Alvin and the Chipmunks could cover it a few months later in "Chipwrecked." But one suspects that's not what made it happen.

Summery-ness ranking: 15

17. Omi, 'Cheerleader (Felix Jaehn Remix)' (2015)

When it displaced Wiz Khalifa's "See You Again" atop the Hot 100, Omi's airy electro-reggae ditty became the first song by a Jamaican artist to hit No. 1 in nearly a decade. But what made "Cheerleader's" ascent even more remarkable was its proudly uncool lyric about the value of monogamy. "Mama loves you too," Omi tells his lady. "She thinks I made the right selection."

Summery-ness ranking: 5



Nelly Furtado and Timbaland perform in September 2006.

TNS

18. Nelly Furtado featuring Timbaland, 'Promiscuous' (2006)

She emerged as a wide-eyed world-music evangelist, and these days she pals around with hipsters like Dev Hynes of Blood Orange. But in between, Furtado recruited Timbaland for this flirty robo-funk duet in which every line comes with a wink: "Roses are red, some diamonds are blue," Furtado sings, "Chivalry is dead, but you're still kind of cute."

Summery-ness ranking: 19

19. Iggy Azalea featuring Charli XCX, 'Fancy' (2014)

Who dat? Who dat? It was I-G-G-Y, of course, the white rapper we loved for a summer before deciding to hate her instead. Five years after "Fancy" set her on a path to villainhood, Azalea's egregious blaccent can only make you cringe. Beat still slaps, though.

Summery-ness ranking: 14

20. Matchbox Twenty, 'Bent' (2000)

A relic from that now-distant era when a rock song could top the Hot 100, the very moody "Bent" suggests that singer Rob Thomas was determined not to be seen as soft following the previous year's "Smooth" with Santana. But who wants a tough guy at the pool party?

Summery-ness ranking: 20

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Take a sick day

A powerful combination of action, voice acting and art direction makes *A Plague Tale: Innocence* a game worth your time

By CHRISTOPHER BYRD ■ Special to The Washington Post

The Plague has long been a source of morbid fascination for just about anyone interested in Medieval Europe. Responsible for the deaths of upward of a third of the European population, the images it evokes of pus-filled boils, streets clogged with corpses and hordes of pestilential rats are perennial fodder for the apocalyptic imagination. A *Plague Tale: Innocence* reimagines the pandemic as a gothic tale.

Though it begins in November 1348, *A Plague Tale: Innocence* has a contemporary flavor. Its most resilient characters are women. Its villain is a corrupt, high-ranking church official, and its most powerful character is a little boy who desperately loves his mother but is reliant on his big sister for care. Its potent synthesis of art direction, stealth action gameplay, smart narrative pacing and high-caliber voice acting imbue it with a spirit of inspiration.

A Plague Tale opens on a bright November day in the southwest of France. Soon after Amicia de Rune, a young noblewoman, and her father embark on a hunt, they come across a boar. After Amicia wounds it with a slingshot, it flees deeper into the forest, causing the de Rune's dog to give chase. When Amicia and her father catch up to their dog, they find it clinging with his forepaws outside of a hole in the earth. Before they can do anything for their pet, he's sucked away.

Spooked, the de Runes return to their castle, where Amicia's father sends her to go find her mother. Before Amicia can convey to her mother the scope of her terror, they hear the sound of men marshaling outside. Peeking out a window, they see that a delegation of the Inquisition has been sent to retrieve Amicia's young brother Hugo upon orders from the Grand Inquisitor.

Amicia barely knows her younger brother because her mother has kept him in seclusion for most of his life. Hugo has a mysterious condition for which his mother, an alchemist, has obsessively been searching for a cure. As the soldiers from the Inquisition begin to methodically slaughter everyone in the household, Amicia takes her brother's hand and flees with him. They become orphans in a world wreathed in decay and death.

The siblings set out to find an alchemist trusted by their mother, but when they find the man they see that he is afflicted with the plague. Fortunately, they befriend his young assistant, Lucas, who

agrees to help them look for a cure for Hugo's condition. Over the course of their adventure, they also become acquainted with a blacksmith and two sibling outlaws. The relationships between the young people are deftly developed.

A particular strength of the game is that it alternates between perilous action and periods of reflection where the characters process the changes they've observed in the world and in themselves. Rarely in adventure games do corpses affect the heroes to this extent. Among other things, I enjoyed watching Amicia's transformation from an understandably hurried guardian to a compassionate, selflessly devoted sister.

Besides the Inquisition, the other threat the kids regularly face are masses of rats, which can devour people or animals in seconds. Heaven help you if musophobia



Photos courtesy of Focus Home Interactive

(the fear of mice and rats) is an issue. There are tidal waves of rodents that must be passed through on the way to a nightmarish showdown that involves floods of warring rodents — one of the more riveting final boss fights I've encountered in some time.

As Amicia and Hugo progress in their adventure, she accumulates a range of things that can be used with her slingshot. Though Amicia can kill a helmetless man with a rock, other enemies require more finesse. Lucas, the young alchemist, teaches her how to craft "Devorantis," a projectile that causes those struck in the head by it to hastily remove their helmets, which are transformed into veritable ovens.

Amicia can also throw projectiles that light embers, snuff out fires and draw rats to certain places. The rats in her world are repelled by light. Amicia can work this to her advantage by extinguishing enemies' torches to allow the rats to do their dirty work.

The checkpoints in the game are gener-

ous, and most human enemies aren't exactly bloodhounds. There were times when I simply ran past armed fighters and hit a checkpoint that caused my troubles to miraculously evaporate. All the same, I enjoyed making use of the abilities at my disposal and I was struck by how well the spaces in the game are designed to give the impression that one is traveling through enormous areas even though the pathways are fairly snug.

I played *A Plague Tale: Innocence* on an Xbox One X hooked up to Samsung 4K QLED TV and was thoroughly taken by the game's visuals. There is a painterly quality to it that reminds me of *The Vanishing of Ethan Carter*. Both games use photogrammetry — a process that allows one to convert photos into usable digital assets — to achieve their conspicuous fidelity.

A Plague Tale: Innocence is an adventure that might give more than a few people a justifiable reason to call out sick.

Platforms: PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One
Online: aplaguetale.com/en



More game reviews at stripes.com/games

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



Grab a friend and a Jeep to ride Bahrain's dirt trails

By JOSHUA KARSTEN
Stars and Stripes

It's Ramadan in Bahrain! Restaurants are closed, the streets are empty during the day. What to do, what to do?

As I drove on and off base, I couldn't help but notice the large number of American four-wheel-drive vehicles in the lot. We live in a desert; why not take my own Jeep for a spin?

I asked around on social media and around base, but no one seemed to have any good gauge on off-roading spots. So I grabbed my Texas-born-and-bred friend, Steve, to take a quick trip to the Southern Governorate, the vast sands and rocks south of the sprawling metropolis that takes up much of the northern half of the island.

Not to stereotype folks from Texas, but my particular accomplice was a great friend to have as I am a city person myself. If you have not driven off road before, the first step is to ask a friend who knows what they are doing to tag along. "I'm from Texas and we do a lot of off-roading. It's always fun to get off the paved road to have some fun," Steve said.

Geared up, tires checked and gas tank full, we hit the road to head south. Our first stop in our search for off-road trails came from a tip in our favorite local Bahrain Family Group page.

"There is usually a large group of 4x4s that hangs out every Friday near the Tree of Life," one member shared.

"We go near the Tree of Life and wander freely," another member added.

The Tree of Life, a tourist attraction in its own right, is really out in the middle of the desert. Some folks have seen Jeepsters and dirt bikes there before, so we headed that way.

Upon our arrival, we noticed that we were the only souls around for miles. We actually snapped some selfies with the tree without tourists in the

background. Score!

But I digress. No tourists, no off-road enthusiasts. Just Steve from Texas, some random industrial zones, another fenced-off area and me. We drove to a Bahrain Defence Force post to ask if they knew where to go, but the concept of driving around in the dirt seemed foreign to them.

We drove farther south until we reached the pointy tip of the island. Plenty of flat desert sand to mash around in, but be advised: If you see a sign the reads "Bahrain Defence Force," it is best to not cross into any ranges or artillery fields.

We were about to call it quits when I remembered a recent drive to the F1 track on the western side of the governorate. There is a small area of cliffs and steep hills where locals barbecue and picnic in the cooler months.

Steve and I arrived and again, not a soul in sight, but the fresh tracks in the dirt gave us enough assurance that this was the spot we have been looking for.

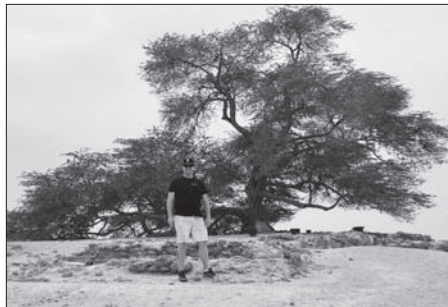
The trails led us up and down some winding craters and bluffs, an easy ride for a beginner like me.

"The trails were mostly dirt and sand and probably beginner to intermediate level," Steve said. "Nothing too challenging, but that's good because it probably won't damage your daily driver."

What does Steve know? The experience for me was novel and exhilarating and an excellent quick trip getaway that did not cost any money, a rarity in Bahrain.

However, if you feel like spending some dinars after sunset, the location is just a stone's throw away from the popular Iftar at the Sofitel Resort. For me, I will be back to my off-road spot again, next time with a cooler, a picnic basket and some stories to share with other off-roaders.

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PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KARSTEN/Stars and Stripes

In his Jeep Wrangler, Stars and Stripes reporter Joshua Karsten visited the Tree of Life, a 400-year-old tree with no known water source, in the Southern Governorate of Bahrain on May 11. The Southern Governorate is home to Bahrain's more arid and less-populated landscapes, perfect for off-roaders looking to escape the city.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Location: GPS coordinates 26.0659, 50.5210, just north of the University of Bahrain and wedged between the intersection of the Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman and Zallaq Highways, Southern Governorate, Bahrain
From base, head west on the Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Hwy and south on Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman

Hwy toward the F1 Complex. The road ends at a roundabout in front of the university. Circle left onto Zallaq and you will see the hills on your left.

COSTS

Free, if you've already got access to a 4x4 vehicle, registration, insurance, gas, lift kit, etc.

— Joshua Karsten

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Making the most of Europe's open roads

It's easy to travel through Europe without a car, but there are times when I enjoy the freedom of having my own wheels. I don't drive in big cities, but having a car can be the best — and, sometimes, only — way to get off the beaten path. When exploring small towns or the countryside, I connect the dots with a rental car.

On my most recent Iberian travels, for example, a great little car helped me get around the whitewashed hill towns of southern Spain and the beach towns of Portugal's Algarve region. I rode cheap public transportation out to Sevilla's airport, picked up my car and got on my way.

There's nothing exotic about driving in Europe. Sure, southern Europeans seem to make up their own rules of the road, and you'll need to adjust to some unfamiliar signage, but it's all part of the experience. Here are some tips for making the most of the open road.

The Basics: While the British and Irish drive on the left, everyone on the Continent drives on the same side that we do in the U.S. Filling the tank is just like back home, except it's euros and liters rather than dollars and gallons. Don't overreact to Europe's high cost of fuel. Over there, cars get great mileage and distances are short.

Signs: All of Europe uses the same simple set of road symbols, which you can easily find online or through your rental agency. Any sign that's red usually means "don't" — such as "don't enter" or "don't pass." A blue sign typically is telling you "do" — such as "go right" or "exit here." Make educated guesses if you don't know for sure (a red sign with an exclamation mark is telling you "be ready for anything").

Passing: After a few minutes on Germany's autobahn or France's autoroute, you'll quickly learn that the fast lane is used only for passing — cruise in the left lane and you'll soon have a Mercedes up your tailpipe.

When you do pass other drivers, be bold but careful. On winding roads, the slower

car ahead of you may use turn-signal sign language to indicate when it's OK to pass. Be sure you understand the lane markings: In France a single, solid white line in the middle of the road means no passing in either direction; in Germany, it's a double white line.



Rick Steves

loop around to explore your options. Don't worry — no other cars will know you've gone around enough to get dizzy.

Speeding: In many countries, car speed is monitored by automatic cameras that click photos and send speeders very expensive tickets by mail (they'll find you through your rental agency). It's smart to know — and follow — the area speed limit.

Drinking and Driving: The legal blood-alcohol limit is lower in Europe than in the U.S., and punishment ranges from steep fines to imprisonment. In France, all cars must have a Breathalyzer on board (supplied if your rental starts in France). Europe takes its DUI laws seriously, and so should you.

Expressways and Tolls: Most of Europe is laced with freeways. In Germany and throughout most of northern Europe, these expressways are toll-free. In France and countries to the south, these super-highways usually come with tolls. I always feel that toll freeways are a good value in terms of time saved, mileage improved and relative safety enjoyed.

Maps and GPS: A good map is a must-have on any European road trip. Don't rely blindly on your phone's mapping app or a GPS device for directions; always

Traffic Circles: For many first-time European drivers, traffic circles are a high-pressure event that require a snap decision about something you don't completely understand: your exit. Take an extra



CAMERON HEWITT/Ricksteves.com

Driving the back roads (as here, in Dartmoor, England) yields surprises by the mile.

have at least a vague sense of your route. Keep a paper map handy, and pay attention to road signs so you can consider alternatives if you feel the GPS route is Getting Pretty Screwy. I navigate by town names because road numbers on maps often don't match the signs.

No-Go Areas: Several major cities across Europe (London, Stockholm, Oslo) discourage urban driving by charging congestion tolls, and some places (Rome, Naples, Florence, Pisa) ban car traffic altogether. In general, old town centers can be difficult to drive in, with one-way streets and narrow roadways. Many cities provide efficient "park & ride" lots at the end stops of trams and subways, just outside the old center and often near the freeway exit. Park, take public transit into town and save yourself time and money.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



RICK STEVES/Ricksteves.com

You'll understand the simple graphics of Iceland's road signs even if you don't know the language.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Late-night museum openings in Prague

It wouldn't be easy to visit all of Prague's museums and galleries in a single night, but if you're going to try, the date to do it is June 8, when around 45 cultural institutions keep their doors open late to welcome an anticipated 100,000 city residents and visitors.

As is customary at Prague Museum Night, the opening hours are complemented by concerts, film screenings, competitions and plenty of other events even foreign guests can enjoy despite the language barrier. Things to do range from watching folkloric ensembles at the Ethnographical Museum to taking a selfie while wearing a costume belonging to the National Museum. With plenty of hands-on activities for children available, it's an outing the whole family can enjoy.

Opening hours run from approximately 7 p.m. to 1 a.m., and entry to all buildings is free, as is transportation between venues on the night. Online: prazskamuzejninoc.cz



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

See green in London

Amidst London's urban sprawl exist countless tucked-away green spaces, many of which open their gates to the public for just one weekend a year.

On June 8-9, more than 100 gardens will participate in Open Garden Squares Weekend, from traditional garden squares to contemporary spaces to community allotments. A handful of participating spaces offer captivating skyline views. In addition to the openings, special

activities include guided walking tours, cycling expeditions, a poetry corner, performances by the National Youth Orchestra or croquet and cocktails.

Adult tickets cost 20 pounds (about \$25.25), tickets for ages 12-18 go for 10 pounds, and children age 11 and under enter free.

Funds raised help the London Parks and Gardens Trust protect those green spaces in decline or under threat of development. Online: opensquares.org

Street musicians in Ludwigsburg

Street musicians transplant their sweet sounds from urban environments to lush gardens throughout the weekend, as the 16th edition of Ludwigsburg, Germany's International Street Music Festival plays out.

From June 7-9, artists will play from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily on 12 stages spread throughout the grounds of the Blüehendes Baroque Castle Gardens. The 40 participating artists and groups come from five continents and present a vivid and diverse program encompassing genres



Courtesy of strassenmusikfestival.de

Bring a blanket or plan to stand and enjoy the diverse offerings of the International Street Music Festival in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

from singer/songwriter to Latin, klezmer, hip-hop, country, jazz and more. Spectators can also serve as jurors, as they receive voting cards with which to select their favorite acts.

The music starts at 6 p.m. daily. Tickets bought online in

advance cost 10 euros for adults and 6 euros for children. As there's generally no seating, bring along a blanket to sit on. Blüehendes Barock is located at Moennelgardstraße 28, 71640 Ludwigsburg. Online: strassenmusikfestival.de

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



Top-notch ingredients make for a great final product at Benji's Burrito Bistro in Landstuhl, Germany. This bowl features steak, shrimp, rice, guacamole, pico de gallo and lettuce.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACQUE BROOME/Special to Stars and Stripes

After Hours: Germany

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

It's usually a positive sign when a restaurant is packed beyond its capacity. So you can imagine how exciting it was to try my first bite from Benji's Burrito Bistro in a city park a couple blocks away from the restaurant.

Waiting in the snaking line extending outside of the eatery's small Landstuhl, Germany, shopfront and transporting the takeout bag to a second location only heightened the anticipation, and with it my expectations, which were already elevated. Really good Mexican food is hard to find in the Kaiserslautern area, and I was hoping Benji's might give me a new go-to. I took a seat on a wooden park bench and with contained optimism cracked open the lid of my burrito bowl.

Turns out I had no reason to manage my expectations — Benji's would have exceeded them regardless. Every ingredient was absolutely delicious.

My burrito bowl started with a base layer of fluffy, flavorful cilantro-lime rice and black beans. Then I piled on the protein — chicken and steak, for which I gladly paid a double-meat upcharge. Then came the tasty pico de gallo, crisp lettuce and shredded cheese for which a proper adjective didn't immediately come to mind but was nonetheless really good.

I don't like guacamole, but my wife does and she let me know that it was outstanding. She also ordered shrimp and steak on her bowl as part of a surf-and-turf promotion. This made me rather jealous, thus continuing my tradition of kind of regretting my eventual order even though I spend so much time in advance thinking about it. But it was hard to regret anything after a meal that's delicious and satisfying.

The arrival of Benji's is a game-changer for my family.



Benji's Burrito Bistro offers excellent Mexican food in downtown Landstuhl, Germany. The new eatery is a welcome addition to Kaiserslautern, which is starved for above-average Mexican fare.

BENJI'S BURRITO BISTRO

Location: Kaiserstrasse 22, Landstuhl, Germany
Hours: Open 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Prices: Benji's offers a simple menu of four items: burrito, quesadilla, burrito bowl or nachos. Price depends on the

protein: chicken, ground beef or carnitas are 8 euros (\$8.92), a vegetarian option is 7.50 euros and steak is 8.50 euros. Extra charges apply for double meat and guacamole.

Information: Benji's has an active Facebook page that is very responsive to messages.

— Gregory Broome

We used to make the trek up to Chipotle in Frankfurt — by the way, there are two Chipotle locations in Frankfurt if you haven't heard — to satisfy this particular craving. But Benji's delivers a Chipotle-caliber experience right here in the KMC.

To my mind, counter-service fast-casual dining represents the Platonic ideal of restaurants. It's more sophisticated than the typical fast-food experience, where you order by number and awkwardly await your bag or tray.

It's more empowering than a table-service restaurant experience, which for me often consists of at least 20 percent scanning

the horizon for our missing server. The only styles that can hope to compete with fast-casual counter service are delivery and buffets. But both have drawbacks — the thought that every ambient outdoor noise indicates that your food is finally here and the inherent nastiness of sharing with strangers, respectively — that fast-casual just doesn't have.

In fact, the only thing that can ruin a fast-casual restaurant is bad food. That's not a problem at Benji's. Count me among those forming a line for more Benji's burritos in the near future.

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Make your own trendy chilaquiles

BY TAN VINH
The Seattle Times

For something different to break up the brunch monotony. For your gluten-free guests. For when you need to cook for a tribe on a budget.

Chilaquiles. Consisting of fried corn tortillas, cheese and salsa, this Mexican breakfast can be — and often is — fortified with the crack of an egg.

It's cheap (my grocery bill for this recipe was under \$20) and fast to make (under 20 minutes).

Many maize dishes on your gourmet getaway can be challenging to replicate because good masa is hard to come by (or expensive) in some areas.

But you can master chilaquiles. Stale and day-old tortillas are meant for chilaquiles. Like fried rice, this dish is born out of leftovers.

The chilaquiles recipe below comes from Gabriel Chavez, who once ran the critically acclaimed Chavez Mexican restaurant on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

Now, a word about how this dish should be served since its sudden popularity has created much discussion over presentation and authenticity. I usually see it served with just a fried egg in Mexico.

But in the U.S., I once saw a family look agape when flaxseed was sprinkled onto this tortilla casserole. I've heard that scrambled eggs is a no-no and that only a sunny side egg can sit atop chilaquiles.



GREG GILBERT, SEATTLE TIMES/TNS

Chilaquiles, a traditional Mexican breakfast, is now a hot brunch dish elsewhere.

Pay these so-called purists no mind. America is a melting pot. We incorporate dishes of our homelands to the seasonal ingredients available in our produce aisle. Our recipes get reinterpreted and evolve.

Seattle's most famous chef, Tom Douglas, fancies up chilaquiles with king crab at Etta's by Pike Place Market.

Jack's BBQ in South Lake Union serves it with a Central-Texas-style barbecue chicken breast.

Chavez, a proud born-and-bred native of Durango, Mexico, uses two staples (mozzarella and olive oil) you would find in a typical Italian kitchen.

In other words, if you don't want to trek to the market to buy Mexican chorizo as some chilaquiles recipes suggest, the Jimmy Dean in your fridge will do just fine. Your kids will love it.

To paraphrase from Michael Mann's "Collateral": improvise, adapt, I thing. Whatever man. Just roll with it.

GABRIEL CHAVEZ'S CHILAQUILES VERDES

Makes: 4 servings

Good olive oil really makes this dish shine in this recipe. I used a tad more olive oil than the recipe calls for. My chips glisten. Corn tortillas work better than store-bought chips for this dish. And remember to buy corn not flour, tortillas.

Ingredients

10 matamillos
1 jalapeno pepper
1 bunch of cilantro (just the stems)
1 dice shallot (sub in onion)
3 ounces of grated mozzarella cheese
3 ounces of queso fresco
16 corn tortillas
½ cup of olive oil
1 tablespoon of sugar
Salt as needed

Directions

Clean the husks of the matamillos, rinse and drop them in a pot of water.

Add the whole jalapeno to the pot of water and turn on high to bring to a boil. Remove the matamillos and jalapeno after 2 minutes of boiling, then put them in the blender.

Rinse the cilantro, cut the

stems and add just the stems to the blender with the matamillos and jalapeno. You want a smooth puree, not a chunky texture.

Add a tablespoon of sugar into the blender.

Blend on high. Add salt to taste.

Heat a pan and add ¼ cup of olive oil. Cut tortillas to chip size (or bite size). When oil is hot, add tortillas to fry, constantly turning the tortillas in the pan — add oil as needed. You want the tortillas to be golden brown. Add a couple pinches of salt to taste.

When tortillas are golden brown, turn heat to medium. Add the matamillo sauce to the pan and coat the tortillas. Add the shallots and mozzarella, continue to stir all ingredients together until the mozzarella starts to melt.

After you plate the chilaquiles verdes, crumble queso fresco on top.

Optional: add a fried egg. Or chicken and sour cream. Leftover tortisier chicken from the supermarket works great here.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Conquering the cobbles

Tours give amateur cyclists a chance to pedal the same routes as the pros

By Reid Wilson

Special to The Washington Post

In a remote corner of northern France, three farm fields intersect. On a cold morning in mid-April, the crops that border a narrow crossing of rough-hewn cobblestone paths barely reach ankle high.

But three pop-up bars are doing a brisk cash-only business, and it's clear that some of the hundreds of rowdy, flag-draped cycling fans who have gathered here have been drinking for hours. Two men in their 20s, one draped in a Belgian flag, lie posed in the middle of the path as a friend snaps a photograph. Inebriated as they seem to be, they roll out of the way just as the next round of police cars and motorcycles come screaming into view.

Minutes later, a squad of bicycles races through a tunnel of sound, a kaleidoscope of colorful jerseys bouncing over the century-old cobblestones. Their team cars follow close by, ready to repair a punctured tire or a damaged bicycle. As soon as they have passed, the hordes of fans sprint to their own vehicles, bound for the next section of cobbles to catch another glimpse.

The barely controlled chaos takes place every year at Paris-Roubaix, one of the iconic one-day races of the professional cycling season. The race covers more than 150 miles of twists and turns as it snakes north to Roubaix, a former epicenter of France's textile manufacturing industry that has since fallen on hard times. It is best known for the grueling 30-plus miles of pavé, as the cobblestones are called, over 29 bone-rattling sectors chosen for their difficulty.

Even in a sport in which pain is the goal, it stands apart; its nickname is the Hell of the North.

Casual fans of professional cycling might keep an eye on the Tour de France, the best-known race of the year. But to die-hards, late March



PHOTOS BY REID WILSON/For The Washington Post

Above: Professional cyclists depart Compiègne at the start of the Paris-Roubaix race, headed for a hellish day on the cobbles before ending on the Roubaix velodrome. **Right:** Professional women's racers suffer up the Oude Kwaremont, a short, steep climb in the Tour of Flanders.



and early April make up Holy Month, a collection of one-day races that tackle difficult courses in Belgian Flanders and northern France.

The Tour de France favors lithe climbers who glide up long and arduous Alps. The cobbled classics favor what fans call the sport's hard men — and, in the Belgian classics that have women's editions like the Tour of Flanders, the hard women — bigger and more powerful riders who can produce huge efforts over short and steep climbs or the treacherous cobbles.

Races like Paris-Roubaix or the Tour of Flanders or Gent-Wevelgem take place in the cold nascence of a Northern European spring. If it is dry, the cyclists will kick up dust that chokes the air. If it is wet, the

to snap photographs, close enough to touch the cyclists — and in at least a few cases to knock them off their bikes. (Though the start of the race was moved to Compiègne in 1966, it is still officially known as Paris-Roubaix.)

What makes the sport unlike any other is the proximity, not just to the riders but to its most hallowed grounds. Without a lucky connection or a fat checkbook, one cannot hope to play catch on the field at Yankee Stadium or kick a field goal in Lambeau. But the day before the riders are scheduled to tackle — or be tackled by — France's cobbled cart paths, I find myself lining up with nearly 7,000 other masochists to ride the very route the pros will cross.

I have come with a British firm called Sportive Breaks. It, like several other touring companies, offers riders like me three nights' lodging, entry fees for the amateur ride and a top-of-the-line road bike to ride for as little as \$650. An additional \$100 gets me a seat in the van the next day to watch the professional race up close, beginning in Compiègne and then racing between cobbled sectors before we end up back in Roubaix for the finish.

But first I must brave the cobbles. I am no professional rider. In fact, I am lucky if I notch 50 miles on the bike in a given week. But on a frigid Saturday, I wake up early and pull on bicycle shorts, pants and an extra base layer to ride through the sleepy streets of industrial Roubaix to the velodrome on my borrowed bike.

At the start line, a number pinned on my back, I take off with a wave of perhaps 100 other cyclists. The fitter ones are clearly angling to score a top time. Others are casual, cruising along on fat-tired bikes that will absorb some of the shock of the cobbles, or riding tandems with their partners. The most adventurous, who will ride all 29 cobbled sectors over 106 miles, started their rides hours ago.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

mud cakes on riders and bikes alike. Either condition is dangerous, and exhilarating, by design.

From the start of Paris-Roubaix in Compiègne, through the cobbled sectors and into the historic velodrome in Roubaix, thousands of fans line the road, draped in the flags of their native lands, screaming encouragement and pressing over the barriers

FROM PAGE 30

I am riding the shortest route, just over 40 miles long and covering only seven sectors.

About half of my ride is a calm warm-up over smooth roads and rolling terrain just to get to the cobbles.

By the time I reach the feed zone, at the mouth of the first sector, I have to pour myself a cup of coffee to hold against my feet in a desperate effort to warm my freezing toes. Or maybe I'm just delaying the pavé in the same way I've been making nervous jokes about the possibility of breaking a collarbone.

Each cobbled sector is given a star rating, corresponding to its difficulty, of between one and five. Once my anxiety has sufficiently abated, I hit my first sector, the relatively easy two-starred Templeuve-Moulinde-Vertain. I am unprepared for the tremors that hit me; these are not stones, these are malicious boulders, shaped to wound. As I try to find a smoother line, my wheel catches an edge and I topple gracefully into the grass. I laugh to myself as I look up at the bright blue sky: What have I done?

But there is no path back to the velodrome that does not involve cobblestones, so I have to soldier on. By the next sector, the three-starred Cysoing a Bourghelles, I hatch a new plan: I will follow someone who looks like she knows what she is doing. The woman whose wheel I latch onto is a skilled rider who maintains a regular pedal stroke and a firm line atop the crested path. I make it through the 1.3 kilometer sector alive, upright and only slightly rattled.

My confidence soars. On the next few sectors, I alternate between riding the inches-wide dirt paths and the smoothest cobbled lines I can find, eyes focused no more than a few yards ahead of me as I watch for danger. I cross the Camphin-en-Pevele sector, where 24 hours later the Belgian superstar Philippe Gilbert will leap away from all but one other rider to make his winning move.

In photos taken by race organizers posted online a few days later, I am gasping for air; I look as if I am indeed enduring hell, though I know I loved every second of it. I am reminded, too, that I am no Gilbert: It takes me just over eight minutes to complete the hardest sector I cross, the five-starred Carrefour de l'Arbre; it took Gilbert a little more than two minutes the next day.

By the time I leave the cobbles and head for Roubaix, my legs are rubbery, my hips ache and my wrists are stung from the vibrations. I zip around a few final corners and into the velodrome, a wheel-banked track that has received the winners of the race since it began in 1896. No one cheers for me as I cross the line, but I smile, exhausted, for one last photographer.

A day later, I am standing with two newfound Scottish acquaintances in the velodrome's infield as Gilbert and German rising star Nils Politt race onto the track. The thousands of fans scream for their heroes as Gilbert rides Politt's wheel, then dashes ahead in a late sprint to take the win. Caked in dust, Gilbert—and I—conquered the cobbles.

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH DITZLER/Stars and Stripes

A visitor moves through a garden of 540 stone statues of Buddha's disciples at the Kitain temple in Kawagoe, Japan, on May 18.



Two disciples of Buddha share a jug in the 500 Rakan compound at Kawagoe's Kitain temple.



For one of Kitain temple's rakan, it all appears to be too much.

Keeping it real

Instead of Tokyo, hop a train to Kawagoe to experience a mix of historic, contemporary

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

An excursion by rail to Kawagoe in Saitama prefecture opens a window to a bygone era in Japan.

Sometimes called "Little Edo," a reference to Tokyo's former identity, the city encompasses a busy commercial district and a Buddhist temple of historic and cultural significance. If, like me, you're relatively new to Japan, Kawagoe is a nice weekend-day-trip alternative to the bustle of center city Tokyo.

Kawagoe is about an hour's drive from Yokota Air Base and an hour and 15 minutes by train from Higashi-Fussa Station, the closest to the base, via the Hachiko line. The rail line crosses a diverse landscape, including the air base and the familiar, tight architecture of suburban Tokyo, but also past rice paddies, through a forest and over a bridge across the wide Truma River bed.

The Hachiko line drops passengers at the Kawagoe Station, the busiest of three stations in the city. The others are Hon Kawagoe and Kawagoe-shi. Check your favorite trip planner (Google Maps works for me) to find the best route and times.

The luxury of an uncontested seat coming and going is a relief from strap-hanging into the city center. The train also serves up a chance to catch snapshots of Japanese life.

Take, for example, the Japanese teenage couple seated catty-corner from me, her in an ankle-length skirt, white blouse and brown sweater and him in an unrestrained growth of black hair and oversized pants and shirt. He nodded off mid-self as she moved a strand of hair falling across his face.

The ride home repeats the inbound trip, the rail car shared with a trio of sharply dressed, petite older women chatting past tight stops, and uniformed school children, bearing backpacks larger than themselves.

An out-and-back trip on Saturday afternoon cost me 1,166 yen (about \$10.60), and I logged six miles walking a circuit from Kawagoe Station to Kitain temple, then to the Kurazukuri district and back to the station.

From the station through a mostly residential district with some restaurants and shops to the temple takes about 20 minutes. The Kitain temple, affiliated with the Buddhist Tendai sect, is a lot like other Buddhist temples and this one, too, has a unique history. The first temple was built on the site in the year 830. It burned down in 1205 and was rebuilt 93 years later.

Once more, in 1638, fire destroyed the Kitain. At the time, the Tokugawa shogun Iemitsu ordered it rebuilt and sent several buildings from Edo Castle, now the site of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, to Kawagoe as part of the project. Iemitsu's fortuitous act preserved a piece of Edo; the Kitain buildings are all that remain of the old castle, lost to the 1923 earthquake and World War II.

During a brief meditative pause on the narrow porch over the temple garden, a polite Japanese woman offered, in perfect English, how the arrangement of large rocks elicits the image of mountains, and the gravel around them a high-country river.

One of the most distinctive part of the grounds is the Gohyaku Rakan, or 500 Rakan (it's actually 540) stone statues of disciples of Buddha, lined up in rows inside a walled compound.

Carved between 1782 and 1825, each face is unlike the others, some irreverently so. One figure appears to be picking his nose, two others share a jug of something that inspires an anticipatory grin and a third buries his head in his arms. Is it humility, exhaustion or world weariness?

Legend has it that one should visit the installation at night, moving from one statue to another by touch until discovering a warm



A woman pauses to check her phone on a busy corner in the Kurazukuri, or warehouse district, in Kawagoe, Japan.

stone figure. Return in daylight to the same statue and you'll find it's the one that most resembles you.

Admission to the temple, 400 yen, includes the 540 rakan. A shop sells drinks, snacks and souvenirs. From there, it's another easy 20-minute walk to the Kurazukuri, basically the main street. The buildings that line the street, originally intended as warehouses, are its prominent feature.

In the Edo Period, 1603-1868, Kawagoe merchants grew wealthy on their trade and connections with the nearby capital city, hence "Little Edo," the story goes. Prosperity allowed business owners to build their warehouses not of wood but of more durable clay.

Today the warehouses are home to an assortment of trendy shops, many capitalizing on the tourist trade but others selling food, clothing and housewares.

The weekend bustle on the street includes tourists, families and young people, some in kimonos, generally enjoying a day off. Likewise, Kawagoe Station is a busy place, with a selection of restaurants and shops inside, including a Starbucks and the custard-filled cream puff franchise Bread Papa.

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ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Kawagoe Kitain Temple, 1 Chome-20-1 Kosenhamachi, Kawagoe, Saitama 350-0036. This trip relied on the JR East Hachioji line from Higashi-Fussa, 1/2 mile from Yokota Air Base's Fussa gate, to Kawagoe Station. By car, the shortest route to Kawagoe city is via routes 16; 468, a toll road; and 254.

TIMES

8:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (until 4 p.m. from Nov. 24 to last day of February), open 20 minutes longer on Sundays and national holidays.

COSTS

400 yen entrance fee

FOOD

Dining options abound along the Kurazukuri, including the street's long continuation back to Kawagoe Station. From sushi to soba to coffee to izikayas, a broad selection unfolds, including several eateries inside the train station.

INFORMATION

For more information about Kawagoe, including driving directions, Candy Street and the Naritasan temple antique sale the 28th of each month, visit yokotatravel.com, tokyocreative.com or Japan-Go.com.

— Joseph Ditzler

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

After Hours: Japan

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The party's over, the bars are closed, the lights have gone up, and you have a hangover hunger to satisfy.

If you're in Shinjuku, you're in luck; that's the home of Roast Beef Abura Soba Beefst, a "build your own" soba noodle restaurant that unlocks its doors just in time for lunch and stays open deep into the night.

Abura Soba — literally, "oil noodles" — is basically a bowl of thick noodles slathered in oil and as much beef as your heart desires.

But first, you must make a crucial decision: How will I craft a hearty bowl of beef and noodles? The friendly Japanese staff will hand you a menu at the cash register where you'll have to decide how much meat you're craving, your choice of sauce and the grilled vegetables and toppings you need to sate your hunger.

Starting with the sauce to adorn your thick, slurpable noodles, you have the choice of a salty, yet smoky and savory soy sauce (940 yen, or about \$8.70); a spicy red miso, packed with vibrant chilis and tenman sauce (990 yen); or a creamy Japanese-style carbonara (1,090 yen).

After arguing with your stomach over the perfect sauce, move on to the meat. The quantities available of lean and juicy roast beef, cut from the top blade muscle, start at 80 grams (about 3 ounces or 6 slices) and rise seven levels, ending at 450 grams, a 1-pound serving of beef.

Now that your mouth is water-



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

At Roast Beef Abura Soba Beefst in Tokyo, you choose how much meat, and which sauce, vegetables and toppings will fill you up.

ing from the thought of all the meat you just ordered, all that's left is to decide the toppings and grilled vegetables to accent the bowl of your dreams. With choices like a spa-boiled egg, wasabi mayo, onions, mushrooms and many more, there's a perfect concoction waiting to be tailor-made just for you.

Upon completion of your order, choose your own seat at either the countertop, facing the chef; a traditional Japanese-style table on the floor; or a regular table.

After a short 10 minutes imagining how you'll tackle your mountain of meat and noodles, your bowl is presented to you and the dream becomes a reality. All that's left before digging into your masterpiece is to choose from even more tableside condiments such as vinegar, chili oil or wasabi relish.

Roast Beef Abura Soba Beefst gives the option of a small bowl of rice to soak up all the juices and leftover trimmings to fully complete one's meal.

No matter the hour, if you're



Roast Beef Abura Soba Beefst in Tokyo is the place to submerge oneself in an ocean of beef or satisfy a 2 a.m. craving.

searching to gorge yourself on a mountain of beef or please a 2 a.m. craving. Roast Beef Abura Soba Beefst eagerly awaits its next Picasso of noodles.

lopez.christian@stripes.com

Twitter: CLopez_Stripes

ROAST BEEF ABURA SOBA BEEFST

Location: Kabukicho 2-37-2, Shinjuku, Tokyo

Directions: A 5-minute walk from Shinjuku Station's east exit.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. Sunday-Thursday; closes 8 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays

Prices: A basic bowl with no additional meat and one topping and vegetable is 1,240 yen.

Dress: Casual

Information: 03-5291-7333; www.beefst.com

— Christian Lopez

Chinese cuisine sets the scene for a novel

By NICOLE Y. CHUNG
Special to The Washington Post

When novelist Lillian Li was growing up in Montgomery County, Md., Asians composed 15 percent of the population, and Li was exposed early on to the depth of Chinese cuisine, including Shanghai specialties, Taiwanese and noodle-shop dishes. But that does not mean she understood it.

"For a long time, I thought of Chinese food as food that I had to eat — that I had no choice in eating," she says. "I didn't even know exactly what I was eating. I think that it was only once I got old enough to be able to order off the menu myself that I started being able to pick up that Chinese food is not just this food that I have no understanding of."

Li's experiences eating at Chinese restaurants in Montgomery County and working at one in northern Virginia helped inspire her first novel, the story of a fictional restaurant she calls Beijing Duck House. "Number One Chinese Restaurant," which comes out in paperback this month, charts the intergenerational conflicts that arise when the son of the restaurant's founder strikes out on his own to open a modern, pan-Asian restaurant in the D.C. neighborhood of Georgetown.

A deep dive into the emotional and physical toil of working at a Chinese restaurant, Li's book focuses on the personal lives of the restaurant's overlooked, hard-working staff.

But her goal was a larger one: to write a novel that "felt effortlessly and organically Chinese American," she says, and to show that resilience — a word often used in reference to immigrants — is twofold.

"Even as my characters shape the environment of the restaurant to find pockets of connection and dignity and respect, they're also irrevocably shaped by the environment as well," she says.

Li's own stint working as a waitress at a Chinese restaurant was short. It was in 2013, the summer before she would head to the University of Michigan's MFA program. She lasted a few weeks before she quit, exhausted physically and emotionally.



SARAH L. VOISIN/The Washington Post

Lillian Li, author of "Number One Chinese Restaurant," digs into Sichuan cuisine at China Canteen in Rockville, Md.

In her novel, the immigrants of Beijing Duck House are the latest in a long tradition of Chinese immigration to the United States, starting with the Gold Rush of the 18th century and broadening with the 1965



passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. What once was seen as "other" ultimately became integrated into the

American food scene.

As with any immigrant group, the food in Chinese-American restaurants and home kitchens changed in response to local ingredients and customers. When Li's own parents immigrated to the United States in the late 1980s, they inadvertently created their own subset of Chinese American food based on what they could easily find in stores.

Li closely follows the ongoing conversation about cultural appropriation, something that came up during a Q&A session at a stop on her book tour last summer. An audience member asked how she should feel when Americans — especially white ones — "discover" her food and help popularize it.

"You used that word 'discover,' and I think that's a really key distinction," Li replied. "Within it, there's a lot of hubris, right? 'I discovered this thing, that so many people already knew about.' The difference between appropriation and appreciation [when] cooking with flavors that are not from your region or background is humility."



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL



Above: Norma Crosby, left, state president for the Texas chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, and Sophie Trist, a New Orleans chapter member, touch a bas-relief of a photograph of the Vietnam Tet Offensive (also shown below) by John Olson at the American Alliance of Museums Expo in New Orleans on May 20. Olson's company, 3D PhotoWorks — which created the bas-relief — has developed technology that helps the world's blind and sight-impaired populations enjoy art and photographs.

PHOTOS BY GERALD HERBERT/AP

More than meets the eye

Museums exploring ways to share art with the blind

By JANET MCCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

As people at the American Alliance of Museums' trade show passed their hands along the raised figures in touchable versions of a Vietnam War photograph, small metal sensors touched off recordings to explain whose picture they were touching and what had happened to him. At a nearby booth was a flat reproduction of a Van Gogh self-portrait with slightly raised, slicker areas to show both outlines and how brush strokes swept or swirled within those outlines.

Museums nationwide are working to make their collections more accessible for people with disabilities, said Elizabeth Merritt, vice president for strategic foresight for the alliance, which represents museums of all sorts, from tiny local history museums to huge zoos. Hours when lights and noise levels are kept low for people on the autism spectrum are another example of inclusiveness, she said, as are websites and smartphone apps designed to work with screen readers for the blind.

Not all touchable art is high-tech. The Singapore Art Museum commissioned three artists to make touchable adaptations of their own works, and plans more. But tech has a big role.

Located in Chatham, N.Y., 3D PhotoWorks was created by photographer John Olson to make his work and other two-dimensional art accessible to the

blind and visually handicapped. The company has digital artists carve out contours for scanned art. After the models are created, small metal sensors are added to trigger narrations about the work and the figures within which they're set.

"I've never seen anything like that, where it integrates touch and sound," said Sophie Trist, 22, who has been blind since birth. Her favorite among three art works and a map was Romare Bearden's collage "Three Folk Musicians," showing two guitarists and a banjo player.

Without audio, she said, "I wouldn't have been able to tell

the difference between a guitar and a banjo. ... Whereas if it were only the sound, it wouldn't be the full picture, either." She appreciated hearing the banjo and learning that it was invented by enslaved Africans.

Trist, a resident of suburban Mandeville, La., and a rising senior at Loyola University of New Orleans, was among several members of the National Federation for the Blind with Olson, who has partnered with the federation for about a decade.

Other high-tech adaptations noted by the alliance are 3D models made by the Brooklyn Museum for the "sensory tours"

it has held for years for blind or partly sighted patrons. That museum also offers tours with headsets to amplify the guide's comments as well as tours in American Sign Language. In Claremont, Calif., at the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, described on its website as the only nationally accredited U.S. museum on a high school campus, students can scan fossils and create models of them.

The Louvre commissioned small low-relief models of parts of its exterior for exhibits about the museum's own eight-century history, said Philippe Moreau of Tactile Studio's Canada office, which did the work.

The studio's many displays, diagonally across from Olson's at the AAM expo, included one such model; the Van Gogh reproduction; a copy of a bust by French artist Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux; and, from work for the Louvre of Abu Dhabi, a line drawing taken from a painting in a sacred Hindu text. It shows the buffalo demon Mahishasura fighting the many-armed goddess Durga. The outlines are in slick, slightly raised plastic, with text and Braille labels including "Sword and shield," "Arrows" and "Leaping lion" — the animal on which Durga is riding.

Though created to give blind and visually handicapped people a look at flat art, the works also offered a new view to the sighted.

Court Myers, a technical consultant for the American Indian Cultural Museum in Oklahoma City, ran his fingers across a set of "brush strokes" in Tactile Studio's Van Gogh.

"Wow!" he said. "You go up to his 'Starry Night' and want to feel what those swirls look like."

He was also blown away by "The Tank" — a 4-foot-wide blowup of Olson's famous photograph of wounded Marines getting emergency treatment on top of a tank during the Tet offensive in February 1968. The sensor for a Marine shown holding a wounded man invoked an interview in which he explained why he had a toy squid in his helmet band.

The combination of hearing, touch and sight changed the sensation itself, Myers said. "For a second there, it felt squiddy."



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Selfie sustainability

4 ways to be a good traveler in the age of overtourism



GREGORY BULL/AP

People pose for a picture among wildflowers in bloom at Lake Elsinore, Calif., in March. The fields of wildflowers were overrun by selfie-seeking tourists this spring, prompting Lake Elsinore City Hall to tweet: "We know it has been miserable," they wrote, "and has caused unnecessary hardships for our entire community."

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH
Associated Press

'Tourists are trampling the very attraction they've come to witness.'

Joel Deichmann

global studies professor at Bentley University in Massachusetts

In Paris, the Louvre Museum closed for a day last week because workers said the crowds were too big to handle. In the Himalayas, climbers at Mount Everest are concerned that the peak has gotten too crowded, contributing to the highest death toll in years.

In cities and destinations around the world, from Barcelona to Bali, "overtourism" has become a year-round problem.

When fields of wildflowers in Lake Elsinore, Calif., were overrun this spring by tourists seeking the perfect photo, the city tweeted bluntly about the impact of traffic jams and trampled hillsides: "We know it has been miserable and has caused unnecessary hardships for our entire community." Last summer, it was a sunflower field outside of Toronto that got trampled after becoming Instagram-famous.

"Tourists are trampling the very attraction they've come to witness," says Joel Deichmann, a global studies professor at Bentley University in Massachusetts.

How do you visit these places without doing harm? Four tips from experts:

1 Remember, it's not all about you: Venturing far from home and experiencing an unfamiliar culture can be transformative, bringing a sense of freedom and even hedonism. But don't forget: Grant, this is already someone's culture, someone's home.

So beyond simply choosing a hotel, really research the place you want to visit. What kind of behavior is appropriate there? What are the environmental policies? If you're booking through a travel service, ask them for guidance.

"This isn't Disney," says Rachel Dodds, founder of the consulting firm Sustaining Tourism.

Payvia Rosati, founder of the travel service Fathom and co-author of the book "Travel Anywhere" (Hardie Grant, 2019) reminds travelers going to exotic destinations:

"You are not here to just add something foreign to your collection."

It might seem logical to put on a tank top and shorts in Thailand's 100-degree heat. But if you're going to visit Buddhist temples, it's considered disrespectful. "Err on the side of conservative dressing," Rosati says.

Deichmann, who frequently travels abroad with his students, advises them to be sensitive and take cues from local residents. For example, he says, on a subway or bus in European cities, locals are usually reading or sitting quietly. Follow their lead: Avoid loud conversations or getting up to snap photos.

2 Put picture-taking in perspective: With phone cameras, we've become accustomed to taking pictures constantly. But taking photos of people, their children and their homes can be invasive.

Also, respect the physical environment. It may seem obvious, but don't walk on the wildflowers to get the best photo.

And consider the risks: At Kaaterskill Falls in New York's Catskill Mountains, four tourist deaths in recent years have been attributed to attempts to take dramatic selfies.

You'll probably enjoy your experiences more fully if you spend less time snapping photos, says University of Denver assistant professor Gia Nardini, co-author of a study on the subject.

And showing restraint can help protect the place you're enjoying from overtourism.

"If you take that picture," Dodds asks, "will 1,000 people arrive the next day to take that same picture?"

3 Give back: When Rosati was planning a cruise along the Amazon River, she knew she'd be stopping in villages where children needed basics like pencils, crayons and paper. So "one-third of my suitcase was school supplies," she says. Once there, she gave them away and filled the space in her suitcase with local crafts.

Consider spending money in the local economy rather than at international hotel chains, and seek out locally owned restaurants and bars.

To help the environment, use public transportation as much as possible. "You're going to have a better experience" too, says Dodds.

Finally, take your packaging with you when you leave a place. And never buy gifts made from endangered animals or other illegal materials.

4 Say hello: "My dad used to say you need to learn to say, 'How can I get a cup of coffee' in the local language," says Dodds, author of a new book, "Overtourism: Issues, Realities and Solutions" (De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2019).

Even in places where many locals speak English, learning a few words in their language — please, thank you, yes, no — will earn you good will and a more authentic experience.

Also, be patient and respectful of those trying to manage the crowds. Staffing at the Louvre, for example, often struggles to keep pace with ever-increasing crowds.

Amid the excitement of even bucket list-level travel, Deichmann says, keep in mind: "What if this were your village?"

WEEKEND: MOVIES

A strong pull

Symbolism between X-Men, real-life issues keeps Michael Fassbender coming back to Magneto role

BY PETER SBLENDORIO
New York Daily News

The X-Men franchise may center on mutants and superheroes, but actor Michael Fassbender has long felt the magnetic pull of real-world problems as he stars in the movies.

Fassbender returns as the powerful Magneto in the latest film, "Dark Phoenix," and leads a sanctuary called Genosha to protect his fellow mutants from oppression. The symbolism between the X-Men and real life is something that attracted Fassbender to the series at the very beginning.

"We're dealing with a fantastical world and it's make-believe and it's high-concept stuff, but at the center of it all, there is this core," Fassbender said. "It was developed around the civil rights movement. Right at the beginning, I always saw (Magneto) as like a Malcolm X character and Professor X as Martin Luther King, and that was the way we always approached it."

"I think that's what makes it very interesting, that you can have this very relevant and serious theme at the center of it all, and that goes for whatever reason it may be, through sort of an ethnic background or whatever sexual preference anybody has, people that feel like they have been pushed to the margins of society, or they're different, or they're misfits, or they're excluded. That's something that is very relevant, and I think a lot of people experience it."

The franchise's latest movie involves one of the X-Men, Jean Grey (played by Sophie Turner), gaining unprecedented power that she struggles to control after being struck by a mysterious cosmic force during a space mission gone wrong. The other X-Men attempt to save her as she unintentionally wreaks havoc with her newfound abilities.

"Dark Phoenix" is Fassbender's fourth film portraying Magneto, whose real name is Erik Lehnsherr. The complex character is capable of controlling metal and magnetic fields and has been both an adversary and ally of Professor Charles Xavier, leader of the X-Men.

"In this one, he's kind of like a cult leader of sorts, I suppose," Fassbender, 42, said of his character. "He's made a compromise of sorts. The war against the human race has



20th Century Fox

In "Dark Phoenix," Michael Fassbender's character Magneto leads a sanctuary called Genosha.

sort of come to an end for him because he's managed to build Genosha. ... That is interrupted by some news that comes his way which sort of pulls him back into conflict, but a different kind of conflict."

Playing Magneto has been a fulfilling ride for Fassbender, who debuted in the movie series based on the Marvel comics in 2011's "X-Men: First Class." He's starred alongside James McAvoy and Jennifer Lawrence in each of the X-Men films he's appeared in.

With "Dark Phoenix," Fassbender feels like the series has come full circle, with Simon Kinberg — who wrote the past two X-Men movies and produced the past three — making his directorial debut.

"This story is about family, and how one member of the family is going through a real hardship, and what that does to the family and how the family is kind of torn apart," Fassbender says of the new movie. "It feels like a very satisfying finish to the saga."

The X-Men are among the properties recently acquired by Disney in a \$71 billion deal with Fox, leaving the next phase for the beloved mutant characters undetermined.

"I'm very satisfied with the journey I've had on this," Fassbender said. "I have no idea what's happening in the future. In my mind I see it as sort of the last film, but I'm really grateful to have been on the journey, and really satisfied with the work that's been done."

It's an experience that's seen Fassbender play fresh versions of Magneto in every movie, which the actor has cherished.

"I appreciate that I get to see him in different incarnations and different points in his life," Fassbender said.

"It keeps it interesting for me. Definitely, there's a familiarity there, coming back for the fourth film and each time sort of putting on an old suit and you sort of call on him. He's sort of in there somewhere. ... I feel lucky that each time there's a new aspect to his character that we haven't seen before."

Michael Fassbender
FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

X-Men struggle to the end in 'Dark Phoenix'

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

The good news is that "Dark Phoenix" is neither an apocalypse nor is it "X-Men: Apocalypse," but this latest installment is not exactly a solid step forward or a satisfying ending for anyone.

It's supposed to be the culmination of 20 years of X-Men movies, and yet it feels more like a rushed and inconsequential spinoff than something that we've been building toward for two decades. Perhaps that's because we've barely gotten to know this version of Jean Grey (Sophie Turner), whose transformation into the all-powerful Phoenix is the thing that divides the X-Men into a tiny civil war.

A brief flashback to 1975 shows a young Jean's defining trauma, when the telekinesis she can't yet control results in a horrific car crash and her becoming an orphan. She's taken in by Charles Xavier (James McAvoy) who offers her help and guidance and tells her that she can decide to use her powers for good, which is not exactly top of mind for her when, 17 years later, she absorbs a deadly cosmic energy field.

The main action is set in 1992, a decade after the events in "Apocalypse" and 30 years after the events in "X-Men: First Class," and you might find yourself wondering just how old are all of these mutants and what is their skin care regime. If there is a reason this had to be set in 1992, the movie certainly doesn't give you any explanation, nor does it really attempt to capture the look of the early '90s at all in costume or production design. But it's 1992, the title card says so, and Charles is riding high on a tide of public goodwill. The X-Men are finally being regarded as heroes and he's become the public face of the operation.



"Dark Phoenix" is an installment in the X-Men saga centering on Jean Grey (Sophie Turner, above), Co-starring Jennifer Lawrence.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX/AP

He's getting a little cavalier with his people, sending them off on an impossible rescue mission to space which will render Jean into the Dark Phoenix. Even his longtime allies like Raven/Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) and Hank/Beast (Nicholas Hoult) are starting to question his motives. This, frankly, is the more interesting thread but the film, written and directed by Simon Kinberg, instead uses Jean/Phoenix — whom, again, we don't know very well — as the embodiment of all of his ambition and failings.

Essentially, Jean discovers that Charles has been hiding some information from her about her childhood and she gets angry and starts racking up a body count. Even Magneto (Michael Fassbender), who is living in what looks like a dystopian sleepaway camp, doesn't want any part of it, and she becomes an outcast. So when an intense alien with nefarious plans and sky-high stilettos, Vuk (Jessica Chastain), tells her that she's just misunderstood and to follow her, Jean is all ears.

It's a lot of fussy plot with not much heart behind it, and while Turner is excellent at looking like a woman in distress, she needs a character to back up all that conflict and make us care. Even a pretty shocking death barely registers emotionally. It probably also doesn't help that this is coming on the heels of "Avengers: Endgame."

As with the other X-Men movies featuring this younger cast, the best parts are usually when Magneto and Charles are in the same scene, which we do get a bit of here in a pretty fun action sequence on a train, which introduced me to the concept of "dreadlock fighting."

But all in all, "Dark Phoenix" is a whiff. The most suspenseful thing that happened had nothing to do with the movie at all, but the theater's fire alarm, which went off during a review screening during the epic climax.

"Dark Phoenix" is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action including some gunplay, disturbing images and brief strong language. Running time: 113 minutes.

'Secret Life of Pets 2' a well-crafted sequel

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

If the sweet, animated 2016 film "The Secret Life of Pets" was mostly for kids, its new sequel might be for another segment of the audience altogether — whoever is buying the tickets. Amid the cute critter shenanigans, this one has plenty of lessons for the parents.

Most of the same gang is back this time: Kevin Hart as the fluffy white bunny Snowball, Eric Stonestreet as the goofy giant Newfoundland, Lake Bell as the laconic cat Chloe and Jenny Slate as the plucky Pomeranian Gidget. This time, though, our main hero terrier Max is voiced by Patton Oswalt, replacing the disgraced Louis C.K.

Both films in the franchise deal with a new addition to the family. In the first, it was a new dog that allowed the filmmakers to explore sibling rivalry. This time, the stranger is a bunny, who Max learns to love unconditionally but which also ups his

anxiety levels.

Returning screenwriter Brian Lynch and returning director Chris Renaud have actually concocted three interlocking plots in "The Secret Life of Pets 2." It's a wise decision since none is deep enough to carry the film alone, forcing some convoluted stitching together. But they manage it, creating a solid piece of entertainment for all ages, if not a terribly revelatory one.

In one story, Max finds himself ever fearful for her owner's new toddler, stressing out as the boy's protector. A trip to the country seems to offer a respite. Getting his head right is his quest.

Before he leaves, he asks Gidget to take care of his favorite squeaky toy. She promptly loses it in a cat lady's apartment filled with crazed felines. Getting it back is her comedic quest. Meanwhile, Snowball is asked by a brave Shih Tzu (Tiffany Haddish) to rescue a tiger cub held by a malevolent circus boss. His quest is to save the other ones, to find his inner superhero.

Oswalt is a fine replacement for Max, able to connect with the character's timidity, wonder and blossoming courage. He is helped by a gruff farm dog voiced by Harrison Ford, who unfortunately muddies his first animated voice role with some hyper-masculinity.

The majority of the film is carefully constructed, switching from plot to plot to plot while also incorporating old characters — Dana Carvey's elderly Basset hound and Hannibal Buress as dachshund Buddy — in an increasingly complex patchwork, fed by a lively soundtrack that includes Stevie Wonder, Jefferson Airplane, Coolio and ZZ Top.

There are some nifty touches, including a dream sequence in which Snowball fantasizes about being a caped crusader, which creates a comic book sequence inside an animated film. Bell steals the movie when her cat gets high on catnip and later teaches Gidget the "way of the cat" — complete with mandatory



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish lend their voices to "The Secret Life of Pets 2," the animated sequel about talking animals.

walking on a laptop keyboard and batting mugs off tables. All this with extraordinary animated effects. In a neat twist, too, the cat lady becomes the butt of jokes but also this — a heroine.

It all builds to a climax where all three plots converge, some stretched uncomfortably. Max is clearly the emotional center of the film but Snowball's journey is just weird, starting as a bunny who plays a dress-up superhero, morphing into a real superhero

who is revealed to be anything but, before proving he IS a superhero, kind of.

If the knock on "The Secret Life of Pets" was that it was a rip-off of "Toy Story," then the second film better grounds itself in its own universe. Like its main three characters, it has learned to be comfortable in its own animated skin.

"The Secret Life of Pets 2" is rated PG for some action and rude humor. Running time: 86 minutes.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Filth, embraced

John Waters, Baltimore's most reputable degenerate, dishes on his latest book

By CHRIS KALTENBACH
The Baltimore Sun

Fifth elder, indeed! With the publication of his ninth book, "Mr. Know-It-All: The Tarnished Reputation of a Filth Elder," Baltimore's most reputable degenerate offers a sampling of all the things that make him such a civic treasure.

It's outrageous and, in ways that only the man who unleashes "Pink Flamingos" on an unsuspecting public could get away with, sentimental. It peers into the future with eyes both delightful and decadent, and looks backward with a nostalgia for things many of us never knew we missed.

Beginning with chapters on each of his last seven movies (from 1981's "Polyester," the movie that gave the world Odorama, to 2004's "A Dirty Shame," with sex-crazed hordes taking over the Harford Road corridor), Waters moves on to ruminations on music, restaurants, traveling, fame, monkey art (as exemplified by the late great Betsy, a chimp at the Baltimore Zoo whose paintings earned her a cult following in the '50s), death (he and his troupe of Dreamlanders have plots picked out at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Towson) and — of course — sex (with a chapter we can't discuss openly in a family newspaper).

So, just what happened at Camp John Waters?

It's a delicious, dangerous blend that may not be for everybody, and that's just fine with the author. For the rest of us, however, carnish has never looked so good.

We caught up with Waters over the phone from his New York apartment, the day after "Mr. Know-It-All" was released. Herewith is a condensed version of the conversation.

The Baltimore Sun: Tell us about the pitch for this book.

Waters: I pitched it as, really, in some ways, a continuation of all my past books. "Shock Value" ended after I made "Polyester," so I said I was going to do stories about the movies I'd made since. And then essays about other things, like in "Crackpot." And then kind of a stunt, like taking

acid, which in a way was like hitchhiking across the country (for his 2014 book "Carsick").

The chapter where you take LSD — did that start off as maybe an idea for a whole book?

No, it was always just going to be the one chapter. They said, "Be careful," and I said, "Be careful? If I was being careful, I wouldn't take it."

As it got nearer and nearer to the day, I was nervous. But I wanted to do it with Mink Stole. I think it's the most sentimental chapter in my book, about friendship. I met Mink 50 years ago in Provincetown (Mass.) — that's where we first met, so it seemed like a good way to celebrate that.

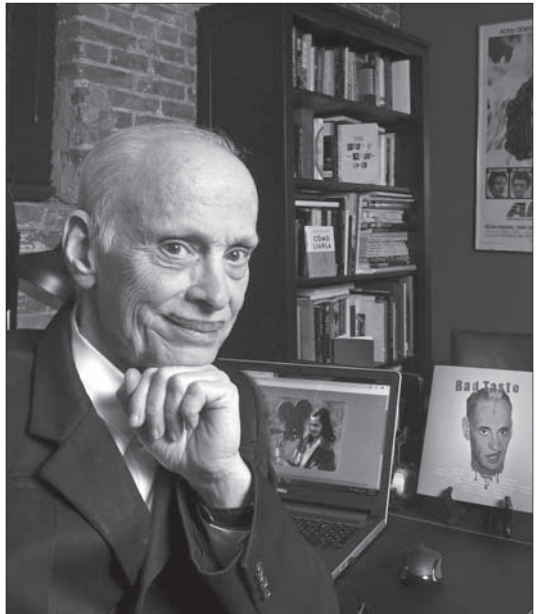
To be honest, all the other Dreamlanders said, "Are you crazy?" And she said yes right away, because neither of us had ever had a problem with drugs in our lives. We took drugs when we were young; we never became drug addicts; nothing bad really happened. I never had a bad trip, and neither did she.

I always wondered, what would it be like to do that again? As I said in the book, my mother always said, "Don't tell young people to take drugs." I don't think young people should take LSD. But old people? If they have pleasant memories of it and did it 50 years ago, I'm not so sure that one final nostalgic trip on acid is not clearing out some cobwebs.

This book is about hindsight and what I've learned throughout the years. I always figure that you have to dare yourself to continue to do new things. And it turned out to be a really great experience that I remember very fondly.

There is a sort of melancholy to reading your books nowadays — every time you do a book, there's more and more distance from your movies, and it seems less and less likely that there will be more.

To me, that's not melancholy at all. I had a phone call today from an agent about a movie project of mine coming to life again. I take it all with a grain of salt; if it happens, it happens. I've never been busier than I am; my career has never been busier. I don't know when I'd even



AMY DAVIS, THE BALTIMORE SUN/TNS

"Hairspray" director John Waters recounts a carefully planned, LSD-fueled night with actress Mink Stole among other shockingly hilarious personal tales in his latest book, "Mr. Know-It-All: The Tarnished Reputation of a Filth Elder."

make one.

I've made 17 movies; they all are still available. I just this weekend was re-carnish all the commentary for the new "Polyester" that Criterion's putting out. So they're all being rereleased; they're not hard to find.

If I make another one, I do. But to me, the books do better — well, we'll see. I don't know what's going to happen with this one — but the books probably do better than "A Dirty Shame," my last movie. That's what happens.

A good alternate title for the book could have been, "What the Hell Happened?" about becoming respectable and about becoming a Mr. Know-It-All.

Do you, every once in a while, kind of scratch your head and go, "How did this happen?"

Yes, I do think sometimes, "How did this happen?" But I always worked hard. My parents raised me to believe that anything is possible as long as you work hard and plan and work ahead.

I like my job. People say to me, "How can you have the energy to keep doing all this?" And I say, "How could I have the energy to not do it? That would seem like it would take me more energy to slow down."

You only get a certain amount of time to live, so I want to read every book, hear every new music. I want to know about the newest thing until the day I die.

'Mr. Know-It-All'

John Waters

In "Mr. Know-It-All: The Tarnished Wisdom of a Filth Elder," John Waters recalls the rise and drop of his movie career and offers advice to aspiring filmmakers, style icons and "sensation-monger[s]." His roguish charm may be enough to make readers feel "all warm and scuzzy inside," but sadly it seems the book was born of existential crisis. "Suddenly the worst thing that can happen to a creative person has happened to me," writes Waters. "I am accepted."

In his first memoir, "Shock Value," the "Hairspray" director recounted the depraved true stories behind his early movies ("Pink Flamingos," "Female Trouble"). These cinematic eruptions, starring the "filthiest people alive," were no more than midnight movies, cult hits — cult meaning "three smart people liked it and nobody paid to see it" — but they nonetheless came to form the basis of his legacy.

"Mr. Know-It-All" tracks Phase 2 of Waters' career, a time of growing budgets and rising respectability. From the "smellpotting" classic "Polyester," whose "Odorama" technology promised audiences a thrilling olfactory experience, through the integrationist dance-hall fantasia "Hairspray," the production values of his films gradually rose. Followed up "Cry-Baby" and "Serial Mom" would find star backing in Johnny Depp and Kathleen



through Baltimore in "Pink Flamingos," gleefully indifferent to the stares of passersby; Waters' work, however absurd and disgusting, celebrates this indifference and in so doing aims to expand tolerance. By exposing soiled humanity for what it is, he harpoons hypocrisy and promotes a kind of acceptance so capacious that few escape its filthy embrace.

And he practices what he preaches. "Six people in my personal phone book have been sentenced to life in prison," he boasts, later recalling a dinner enjoyed with

onetime Black Panther (and convicted murderer) Johnny Spain. Meanwhile, his long friendship with Patty Hearst, a woman not untouched by controversy, led to the heiress-hostage taking roles in five of Waters' films. "Hadn't she been performing with the SLA all that time so as to stay alive?" he asks. "This time, at least she'd have on-set catering."

The book's second half ditches the Hollywood memoir in favor of less structured but equally riotous material. Waters' extended riffs on architecture, cuisine, Warhol and more are essentially a rebel's attempt to buck the acceptance he's accidentally found. He enthuses about gorilla art; takes an NC-17 tour of America's sex clubs; speculates on the future of terrorist-activism. He teases out the stupidest implications of a string of conceits, including his proposal for a brutalist dream house characterized by "Stalinist chic, Stasi nostalgia. Designed to be unfriendly," and his idea for a restaurant — Gristle — that serves foie gras "made from horse corn that was forced down the throats of masochistic ducks who enjoyed being humiliated by the butchiest liver-loving farmers this side of the French border."

That this Prince of Puke has become an accidental darling of American cinema and letters — an institution, however depraved — may be a dirty shame to him, but it's a blessing for the rest of us.

— Charles Arrowsmith
Special to The Washington Post

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD



Universal Pictures Home Entertainment

Kristen Stewart and Laura Dern star in "JT LeRoy," now on DVD.

"JT LeRoy": The fact-based story follows best-selling author Laura Albert (Laura Dern), who wrote under the made-up literary persona of JT LeRoy. The fake character was Albert's way of avoiding the public attention. Albert wiggles her way out of public appearances until she meets her sister-in-law, Savannah Knoop (Kristen Stewart).

Either out of Albert's sudden need to feel some of the heat from the spotlight or simply to curtail part of the demands for her to be in public, she convinces Knoop to create an androgynous look and pretend to be LeRoy for a photo shoot and an interview. What starts as a bit of sleight of hand turns into a full-blown cover-up.

Stewart and Dern faced a unique performance challenge. Both actors had to find an acting symbiotic relationship to make the fictional title character come to life both spiritually and physically. Had either wavered in instilling such believable elements to their part of the task, the movie would not have been as emotionally strong. But they both supplied deep and meaningful performances for their part of the character.

"Lost in Space: The Complete First Season": This update of how the Robinson family ends up having to fight for survival is a strong mix of special effects and well-defined characters. Some modifications are made to familiar characters, but all the changes help give the series a fresh look. The show is anchored by Toby Stephens and Molly Parker, who portray John and Maureen Robinson. One of the big upgrades is giving Maureen far more control and power. The family element remains, but the relationships have been strained.

"The Haunting of Sharon Tate": This movie, by director/writer Daniel Farrands, is such a poorly written, overly acted and miserably shot production, if it was a film school project, someone would be retaking the class. Or perhaps searching for a new career path.

Also available on DVD:

"Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral": Family reunion turns into a funeral. "Heroes Shed No Tears": This is the first time the 1986 John Woo film has been available in North America.

"Batman vs. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles": The heroes in a half-shell help the Caped Crusader fight crime in Gotham City.

"Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan: Season One": When CIA analyst Jack Ryan stumbles upon suspicious intel transfers he is pulled from the safety of his desk job and put into a deadly situation.

"Woman at War": A quiet 50-year-old woman works behind the scenes as an environmental activist waging a war on the local aluminum industry.

"Gloria Bell": A free-spirited divorcee (Julianne Moore) who spends her days at a dance club office job and her nights at L.A. dance clubs finds romance.

"The Odds": Young woman competes in a sadistic game against concealed competitors in a winner-take-all test of survival.

"All You Ever Wanted For": Young New York fashion executive's business trip in Milan takes an unexpected turn when he is kidnapped. Darren Criss stars.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service



HBO

Suranne Jones and Sophie Rundle star in a tale of Anne Lister, a top-hatted lesbian who refused to conform to British convention in the early 1800s. "Gentleman Jack" premieres Sunday on AFN-Spectrum.

An 1800s landowner finally gets her due in HBO period drama

By HANK STUEVER
The Washington Post

It's not easy to describe a character as intensely original as Anne Lister, the gender nonconforming (the everything nonconforming) 19th-century protagonist in HBO's deliciously provocative British period dramas "Gentleman Jack," which premieres Sunday on AFN-Spectrum.

But "Gentleman Jack" is far from filler content; indeed, it's one of the most engaging dramas to come along so far this year. At first blush, this eight-episode series might look more PBS than HBO, but the second blush is a doozy.

Finely executed in conjunction with the BBC and created by Sally Wainwright (whose hits include "Last Tango in Halifax" and "Happy Valley"), the story is drawn from some 4 million words of secretly encoded diary entries written by the real Anne Lister (1791-1840), who managed to live as openly as a landowning lesbian might in the early days of the Industrial Revolution in West Yorkshire. Lister was a fascinating anomaly in her time and place — an intellectually curious, courageously uninhibited person who believed fully in the innate aspect of her sexual orientation and her right to marry another woman.

Suranne Jones ("Doctor Foster") is downright sensational as Wainwright's vision of Anne Lister, blowing into the small village of Halifax in 1832 with cyclone force, dressed in a tailored hybrid of haberdashery and long skirts — all in raven black, including her masculine top hat.

Accustomed to a lifetime of turned heads and whispered rumors (and a nickname that supplies the show's title), Anne has returned from her world travels to her hometown to shake up things at Shibden Hall, the ancestral home of

her aging father (Timothy West), aunt (Gemma Jones) and unmarried younger sister (Gemma Whelan). As heir, Anne takes a renewed interest in the estate's farming and coal-mining potential, as well as the leases of its scattered tenants.

Anne is also nursing a recently wounded heart, after her last lover (Jodhi May) decided to accept a marriage proposal from a man. Consumed

"Gentleman Jack" is particularly canny in the way it allows Anne's dangerous delusions to flourish and then start to unravel by the fifth episode.

by resentment over society's restrictions, Anne channels her anger into bettering Shibden's fortunes — and soon runs afoul of the county's magistrate and local coal magnate (Vincent Franklin), who has quietly been stealing from the Lister-owned mines.

Yet Anne's adversaries admit she's the most interesting person in town. "She's very clever; that's why I like her," says the amused mother of the man stealing Anne's coal. "Her company, her conversation. ... She's been to so many places, done so many things. Most women are dull and stupid, but not her."

Like all good period dramas, "Gentleman Jack" is packed with quickly paced plots and subplots, scattering its attentions along the bucolic roads, which Anne traverses in long, determinedly

virile strides. One of her tenant families has a son who was gravely injured in a buggy crash; another family tries to cover up the sudden disappearance of their abusive, alcoholic husband and father. Anne's comely maid (Albane Courtois) tries to keep an out-of-wedlock pregnancy secret, a manservant (Thomas Howes) hopes to solve the problem by marrying the maid. And so on.

The real attraction, however, is the real attraction: No sooner has Anne moved home than she is reacquainted with the shy heiress next door, Anne Walker (Sophie Rundle), who has harbored a sort of girl crush on Anne for years. Breaking the fourth wall, Anne confides to the viewers that she, too, is smitten and intends to seduce the younger woman. In the long game, Anne conceives of a profitable future together in wedded bliss, using the Walker family fortunes to expand her mining interests.

"Gentleman Jack" is particularly canny in the way it allows Anne's dangerous delusions (including the notion of a same-sex union) to flourish and then start to unravel by the fifth episode. Although the viewer is inclined to root for her to prevail, Anne often falls somewhat short of heroic, and that's by design. Driven by class status, she manipulates people to get what she wants, and her obsessive pursuit of the naive Ann Walker verges on predatory.

"I love — and only love — the fairer sex," Anne confesses to the object of her desire. "My heart revolts from any other love than this. These feelings haven't wavered or deviated since childhood. I was born like this."

It would take more than a century for scholars to come along and decipher the treasure of Lister's diaries, which lend "Gentleman Jack" an impressive degree of nuance, and it is heartbreaking to watch as Jones so sharply captures Lister's triumphs and anguish.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Diet advice and the law

Case highlights confusion around dietitians and health coaches, and how their qualifications differ

Laura Boll-Peifer is a holistic health coach based in West Orange, N.J. While she specializes in helping people achieve lifestyle goals, she believes that dietitians are better suited to advise people with medical conditions related to diet or nutrition.

JULIO CORTEZ/AP

By CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

In California, Heather Del Castillo offered tips on natural eating as a health coach. But in Florida, the title didn't qualify her to give nutrition advice.

After getting a complaint that she was working without a license, Florida officials sent a cease-and-desist order and fined her \$750. Del Castillo sued, saying her free speech rights were violated. Now, a federal court is expected to rule on her lawsuit as other states weigh regulations on professional dietary advice.

"I literally didn't even know I was doing anything that was wrong," said Del Castillo, who noted her business was legal when she was living in California.

Health coaches like Del Castillo can get certificates from a variety of programs, but the title doesn't have a consistent meaning and anyone can use it. Many say they can give clients advice on how to achieve their health goals through lifestyle changes.

Registered dietitians complete months of supervised practice, pass a national exam and take continuing education courses — requirements that are echoed in the licensing laws of states that have them. While they too can help people meet health goals, dietitians say they also have the qualifications to advise patients managing chronic diseases or other medical problems.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, which represents registered dietitians, says Del Castillo's lawsuit poses a threat to other licensing laws that protect public health, such as those for doctors. It notes that it supports dietary licensing laws only for advice on medical conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.

"If they're talking about wellness and general nutrition, that would not be affected," said Pepin Tuma, an academy spokesman.

The Institute for Justice, a free market group that took up Del Castillo's case, has for years challenged professional licensing requirements and says dietary advice should be protected as free speech, regardless of the context. It says advice about food and health is ubiquitous and that Florida's law gives a monopoly to select individuals.

State laws vary. A few have no rules, while others require licenses only if people want to use titles such as "dietitian" or "nutritionist." Florida restricts the dietary practice more broadly to licensed individuals.

"It's just so hard to know where to draw the lines."

Laura Boll-Peifer
N.J.-based health coach

Claudia Haupt, a Northeastern University law professor, said licensing laws would be most legally defensible in fields where there's real potential danger people could be hurt. She said licensing would be harder to defend for florists or interior decorators, but noted it's plausible that bad dietary advice can cause harm.

In court filings, Florida said its law protects people from incompetent advice. It said Del Castillo did not have the qualifications to obtain a dietary license but got a certificate as a "holistic health coach" from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition, an online school.

Darrell Rogers, a school spokesman, said laws like the one in Florida are outdated and that it's rare for health coaches to face fines. The school helped connect Del Castillo with the Institute for Justice.

Del Castillo's case also touches on disagreements about nutrition. Del Castillo is a trainer for Crossfit, which is known for high-intensity workouts and has been critical of the dietetics field. The company has fought licensing laws for fitness trainers and says it will fight any attempts at new or stricter dietary licensing laws that could prevent its trainers from giving nutrition advice. It has donated to the Institute for Justice for Del Castillo's case.

Laura Boll-Peifer, a health coach in New Jersey, has a more moderate view. Like many other health coaches, she said her specialty is helping people achieve the goals they set for themselves and that dietitians are better suited to handle medical conditions like eating disorders or high cholesterol. But she was reluctant about introducing a dietary licensing law in her state.

"It's just so hard to know where to draw the lines," she said.

The National Board for Health & Wellness Coaches recently launched a certification exam for health coaches to bring more consistency to the field. In the meantime, states may contemplate new or updated rules on dietary advice.

After a separate challenge by the Institute for Justice, North Carolina had clarified its dietary licensing law. Last year, the state also narrowed the scope of the law to require licenses only for medical conditions. But that might not settle all questions.

Charla Burill, executive director of North Carolina's dietetics board, noted that someone who's obese might get help for a medical condition, or for general diet tips. "Obesity could be a gray area," she said.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



JEAN-FRANCOIS BADIAS/AP

Andre Gantois shows photos of his parents, Wilburn Henderson, right, and mother Irene Gantois.

D-Day and the DNA test

French postal worker finally has lifelong mystery answered

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

After decades of searching, Andre Gantois had lost hope. The retired French postal worker figured he'd likely go to his grave without ever knowing who his father was, unable to identify the U.S. serviceman who had fought his way across France after the D-Day landings, taken a bullet to the skull and been nursed back to health in a military hospital by Gantois' mother.

Into his 70s, Gantois still had no clues to pursue, no name to work with, no paper trail to follow.

As a consequence, he also had no peace.

"Throughout my life, I lived with this open wound," he says. "I never accepted my situation, of not knowing my father and, most of all, knowing that he didn't know about me, didn't know of my existence."

Even as Europe, the United States and their allies mark 75 years since 160,000 Allied troops stormed a heavily-fortified 50-mile stretch of Nazi-occupied coastline in Normandy, the history of D-Day and its aftermath is still being written.

The big picture, of course, is well known. The greatest-ever amphibious landing, a triumph of soldiering and seafaring, of industry, ingenuity and logistics, and upon which a new world order was built, was again commemorated June 6 with respect for the ever-smaller group of surviving veterans and awe for their heroics.

Yet all these years later, there are enduring holes in the narrative, too. Among the thick Normandy hedgerows where German troops dug in and the Allied advance bogged down, soldiers' bones are still regularly disinterred. So brutal and chaotic was the fighting in France that thousands went missing or couldn't be identified.

Soldiers on all sides also fathered tens of thousands of children, some

of them unable to ever answer that most existential of questions: Where did I come from?

Until a few months ago, when what he calls an unexpected "miracle" changed his life and filled in one of these missing pieces of wartime history, Gantois was among them.

Growing up as a post-war kid in eastern France, he would simply draw a line on forms at school that asked pupils for their fathers' names and other family details.

His mother and grandmother told him his father was killed in France's war in Vietnam that broke out in 1946, the year Gantois was born. The grandmother said his father's name was Jack. A trusting child, Gantois couldn't know these were lies. He didn't pay much heed to elderly neighbors who called him "the young American" or "the American's kid."

Only at age 15, when Gantois was mourning the death of his mother, taken by tuberculosis at age 37, did he get the truth.

"Listen, Andre, I have to tell you," the 73-year-old Gantois recalls his grandmother confessing to him. "Your dad was an American, in the war."

At first, Gantois was lost. Later, in his twenties, he became determined to find out more.

Having married and with plans to start a family of his own, Gantois felt compelled to put a name, a face, to the patchy story and to fill what his wife, Rosine, now says was "a huge hole" in his life.

"He had no name, nothing to go on," she says. "He told me, 'I'll die without ever knowing who he was.'"

Visits to U.S. offices in France produced only frustration. Gantois recalls that an embassy official told him: "A lot of people are looking for their fathers, because they want money, they want to be compensated by the U.S. government. But you have to have proof. I had no proof."

Other avenues also proved to be dead ends.

Until last June.

Urged on by his daughter-in-law, Gantois took a DNA test.

Weeks later, she called him with the earthshaking results.

"You have an American brother, a sister, a whole family," Gantois recalls her telling him.

His dad, the test helped reveal, had been Wilburn "Bill" Henderson. From Essex, Mo., the infantryman landed on Omaha beach seemingly just after D-Day, fought through Normandy, suffered a head wound in the closing months of the war and met Irene Gantois at a hospital in occupied Germany.

After Germany's surrender in May 1945, when the soldier came to visit her at home in eastern France, she apparently didn't tell him that she was carrying his child. He returned to the United States, started a family and never spoke to his children about her before his death in 1997.

The trail would have ended there, had not Andre Gantois and his American half brother both taken a DNA test. By chance, they both picked the same testing company, enabling it to put them together. The two men and Gantois' half sister, Judy, met for the first time last September in France.

Allen Henderson took the test on a whim, because the company had a special offer on its prices and, he says, because "I thought, well, that would be interesting."

Both Gantois and Henderson acknowledge how lucky they are not only to have found each other but also that their father survived Normandy and its aftermath.

Henderson, 65, who lives in Greenville, S.C., says he knew straight away when he saw Gantois that they were brothers because the resemblance is so striking.

"You know, Andre actually looks more like my dad than I do," Henderson says. "Your mannerisms, your smile, your face, I feel almost like I'm talking to my dad."

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Wailing wall: Grades don't tell the full story

I had done it, all by myself this time. I would finally make my parents proud.

It was 1991, and I was about to graduate from law school. My parents made the nine-hour drive from Pennsylvania to Michigan for the occasion, the first time since I had left home three years prior. I met them at school, eager to show them the place where I finally transitioned from child to adult.

Unlike college when I was still under my parents' thumbs, I completed law school without their hand-holding or bank accounts. As much as it would have been nice to have them foot the bills, I knew I had to be cut the apron strings and set out on my own.

In order to do this as a flat-broke college grad, I had to get every loan possible, and work at least 20 to 30 hours a week with a full course load. It wasn't easy. I drove a 1976 Volkswagen Beetle through snow-blown Michigan winters, shopped at thrift stores and ate plenty of ramen.

But I did well, earning a spot on Law Review, getting a coveted internship at the county prosecutor's office and securing two job offers before graduation. All I had to do now was accept the sweetest reward of all — my parents' approval.

Dressed in the eggplant business suit I'd splurged on with my meager savings, I walked them through the institution that would award me my degree later that day. I pointed out the library, the bookstore, the mock courtroom, the school cafeteria's bran muffins and the heavily smoke-infused student lounge.

I told them how the system worked — how our final grades in every non-writing course were based on anonymous "blue book" exams. To demonstrate this, I pulled my "Secured Transactions and Bankruptcy" blue book out of my bag while we sat in the cafe for a coffee break. It was the last exam I had taken, and I still needed to check my grade.

"See Mom and Dad, this booklet is what we record our exam answers in. Each one has a random number in the corner ... here." "In order to see what grade I got on this point, I have to find that number on a bulletin board upstairs. We call it 'The Wailing Wall.'" I said with a chuckle. "I'll show you."

After finishing our Styrofoam cups of coffee, we took the elevators to the Wailing Wall on the sixth floor. Students were milling about, muttering the long numbers from their blue books, pointing to the printouts on the wall, and drawing their fingers across the board to the columns of final grades.

Okay, so let's find my Secured Transactions and Bankruptcy blue book, shall we? I guided my parents, who seemed fascinated by my world.

The three of us scanned the lists, looking for the right combination of numbers.

"Is that it?" my mother said excitedly, pointing and squinting at a number high on the wall.

"You found it, Mom, nice job!" I said. I held the place with my fingertip. "Now, let's follow the line over to the grade column." I dragged my finger along, and they watched, each of us sporting an eager grin.

"And voila!" I said when my fingertip reached the column of letter grades. "What does it say?" I asked, as they craned their necks to see.

My parents' expressions turned from cheerfully entertained, to somewhat confused, to downright embarrassed. "It says D+," my father reported with deadpan delivery.

For that moment, I felt that all was lost. Every memory of disappointing Cs on my high school report cards and college transcripts bubbled to the surface. Would I ever exceed my parents' mediocre expectations for me?

But less than an hour later in the auditorium, they watched tears fill their eyes, as their only daughter accepted her hard-earned Juris Doctor degree.

"We're so proud of what you've accomplished," they gushed, hugging and kissing me afterward. Turns out, my grades hadn't defined me after all. And much to my surprise, my parents knew that better than I did.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

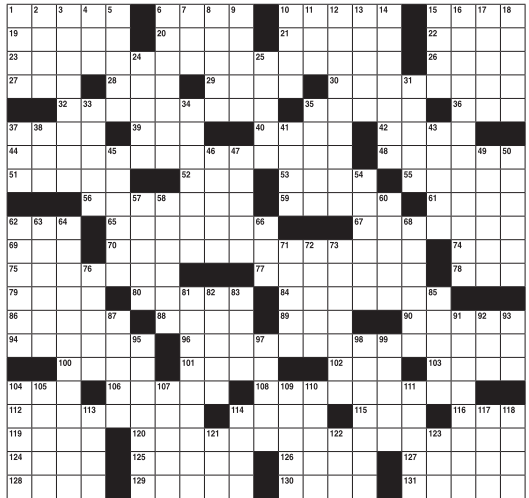
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BUZZ CUT

BY RUTH BLOOMFIELD MARGOLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ruth Bloomfield Margolin, of Westfield, N.J., began constructing crosswords after having an "I can do that!" reaction to a puzzle she solved. It took some time (and a couple of what she calls "polite rejections") before she got her first acceptance. This is now her 10th crossword for The Times. In her nonpuzzling life, Ruth holds leadership positions on several community nonprofit boards and tutors in an adult literacy program. —W.S.

- ACROSS**
1 Mythical hunter
6 Curmudgeon
10 Famous Musketeer
15 Crack
19 Glowing reminder
20 Houston university
21 Bond-film staple
22 "Other people," per Sartre
23 Facebook friends weighing in on the new bellybutton ring?
26 Gymnast Korbut
27 Flat pancake filling?
28 Custodian's need
29 Woodwind category
30 Cellphone user's choice
32 When something goes live
35 Fish dish
36 Dr.'s order
37 Princess who makes a plea via a hologram
39 Draw
40 Jacques of French comedy
42 Mozart's "____ Pastore"
44 Leggs brand bikini?
48 Typical fan of Dick Clark's "American Bandstand"
51 Blue material
- 52 Arafat's grp.
53 Nickname of a 2010s pop idol, with "the"
55 Valerie Harper title
56 Extension of a chicken breast
59 "Gilt"
61 "Interviewer" who asked Buzz Aldrin whether people on the moon were friendly
62 Scientific inquiry?
65 Family nickname
67 Bugs and Thumper
69 End of an ____
70 Final scene of "Antony and Cleopatra"
74 Speak lovingly
75 1979 World Series opponents of the 63-Dowms
77 Big-swinging demographic group
78 South end?
79 Lake in "Casino Royale"
80 Axes
84 Competitive video gaming
86 It routinely goes off when you're out
88 Seethe
89 3-D measurement: Abbr.
90 Illusory illustration
94 Camper without a camper, say
96 Like a confirmed peacenik?
- 100 Swimmer Torres with
102 Olympic medals
101 "____ miracle!"
102 Mideast land: Abbr.
103 Mideast land
104 Klutz
106 Easy question to answer
108 Stick on a Christmas tree
112 Actor with a famous side kick
114 Coat-of-arms border
115 Physics unit
116 Born
119 Additionally
120 "Our driveway has been incredibly slippery since the storm!"
124 Shambles
125 Shaw of 1930s-'40s swing
126 Gawk at
127 Title role in Shakespeare opera
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129 Hoarse
130 Blender sound
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- DOWN**
1 ____ vu
2 Shock jump Don
3 Scrape
4 Marshal at Waterloo
5 It may be carried by the wind
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8 Honda line
9 Hat for an artist
10 Anything but basic
11 Alternative to café
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14 Get the job done
15 Class with drills
16 Parent's fervent prayer to the school nurse?
17 Fish-tank film
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20 Loud
25 Kattis's partner in "The Hunger Games"
31 Famed acting coach
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33 Animal with a prehensile snout
34 Reinforces, as convictions
35 Seneca, philosophically
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45 "It depends on my schedule!"
46 Actress Glazer, of "Broad City"
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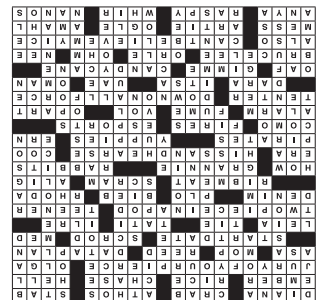
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81 ABCs
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91 Like the Kardashians, ethnically
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- 95 Training wheels?
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122 Country music's ____ Young Band
123 Singer Samac

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FACES



Off script

Director Ron Howard sticks with documentary format for latest project about Pavarotti's life

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, INVISION/AP

Filmmaker Ron Howard poses for a portrait in New York to promote his documentary "Pavarotti." Howard says he hopes the film will introduce opera icon Luciano Pavarotti to a young generation that never got to hear him before his death in 2007.

BY RICK BENTLEY

Tribune News Service

Ron Howard starts the interview to talk about his latest documentary film, "Pavarotti," with an apology. He needs a moment because his daughter — Bryce Dallas Howard — is on the phone and she's asking for his advice.

"She never asks for my advice," Howard says after the short phone call ends.

This is Howard's world. He's juggling a life where he's one of the most successful producers, directors and actors working in Hollywood while still finding time for his family. When it comes to work, his professional life has gone through a few changes in recent years.

Howard spent the majority of his time behind the camera during his post-*Opie* and "Happy Days" years creating scripted films. Whether it be a production like "Apollo 13" that was based on real events or a sword-and-fantasy saga like "Willow," Howard had a script to use as his guide.

That changed in 2013 when Howard shifted into a documentary mode for "Made In America" and continued with "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week — The Touring Years." His latest documentary, "Pavarotti," which opened stateside Friday, takes a look at Luciano Pavarotti, the man who became known as "The People's Tenor."

Considering his directing work with scripted projects massively outnumbers his documentaries, Howard laughs and calls himself "a layman" when it comes to the documentary film genre. That means he's continuing to learn and investigate the process while offering in-depth looks at some very iconic subjects. One thing Howard has learned is that making a movie is not that wildly different whether you have a script or are making a documentary.

"A pleasant surprise for me was that so much of what I do as a narrative, scripted director, actually does carry over," Howard says. "I am not staging actors and I'm not developing the script, but I am doing the same kind of research and exploring the subject."

Whether he is making a movie like "The Da Vinci Code" or "Pavarotti," the work starts with doing research. It is important for Howard to understand whatever world he is filming to make sure he creates the clearest story possible.

Howard uses interviews and never-before-seen footage to tell the story of Pavarotti as the world famous voice, family man and musical legend in a format that is like a three-act opera. It is a different approach than he used when making The Beatles documentary as that offering mixed the musical history of the Fab Four with personal recollections of those who saw them perform.

The biggest difference between the two ways of making films is that documentaries require a more fluid approach. Howard explains that the real the-

matic ideas in a documentary have to come from either the interviews that are done or the footage that is found. In a scripted world, those elements are already in place.

"With documentaries, you gather and then you have to sort of see what the material is saying to you," Howard says. "You have your own set of ideas — some based on what you read in your research — but you have to ask yourself the question through the interviews and the archival footage we found of what can we really say versus what we think we would like to say."



TNS

Luciano Pavarotti greets the crowd prior to a performance April 6, 2002, in Wichita, Kan. Howard says he sees the Italian tenor's life as "a bittersweet story."

him to learn about the opera world in the same way he learned about NASA when working on "Apollo 13" or the world of journalism with "The Paper." That's one of many reasons he finds more pleasure behind the camera than when acting.

The film Howard ended up making on Pavarotti balances the glory of his music and the heart of his charisma with his private human struggles. It is a story of love, passion, joy, family, loss, risk and beauty told through the soundtrack of Pavarotti's golden voice. The Oscar-winning director was especially taken with Pavarotti's efforts to broaden the reach of his art as a way of exposing more people to opera. This was accomplished through Pavarotti's travels, which included a trip to China.

"I also have a personal hope that our documentary might help continue that work. Luciano so loved music. He so loved people. And he wanted to bring the beauty of music to as many people around the world as he could," Howard says.

"Pavarotti" is Howard's latest effort to show the beauty and joy of cinema whether it is through documentaries or scripted efforts such as "Splash," "A Beautiful Mind," "Parenthood," "Cocoon" and "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

Underwood wins at CMT Awards

BY MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

Carrie Underwood extended her run as the most decorated act in the history of the CMT Music Awards with her 20th win Wednesday night.

Underwood won two prizes at the fan-voted show, including video of the year for "Cry Pretty" and female video of the year for "Love Wins."

"Fans, thank you so much. I saw you guys doing the Twitter parties and getting together and doing your thing and voting," she said. "None of us would be able to do any of what we do if not for you guys. You guys put us here. You guys keep us going. You guys let us live out our dreams."

When she won the first televised award of the night, Underwood acknowledged her husband, former hockey player Mike Fisher. "It is my husband's birthday today — look what they got you," she said.

The Grammy-winning country star also performed at the show honoring the year's best country music videos, which took place at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.

Thomas Rhett, Little Big Town and Trampled by Tahrity kicked off the event with a performance of "Don't Threaten Me With a Good Time." More collaborative performances followed: Brett Young sang "Here Tonight" with R&B group Boyz II Men. Sheryl Crow and Maren Morris teamed up onstage, while Tanya Tucker

whose new album will be produced by Brandi Carlile — sang "Delta Dawn" with the Grammy-winning Americana singer Martina McBride, Trisha Yearwood, Lauren Alaina and more acts.

Little Big Town, who also performed and returned for a second year as hosts of the show, talked about the lack of female singers on country radio ahead of the strong female performance. On this week's Billboard country airplay chart — which tracks radio airplay — only 10 of the top 20 slots belong to women or songs co-starring a woman.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Carrie Underwood accepts the award for female video of the year for "Love Wins" at the CMT Music Awards on June 5 at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena.

"Back in December it was even worse — there were none," Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild said. "Here's my question, ladies in the house: What do we have to do to get some airplay around here?"

Little Big Town told jokes at the top of the show and even sang some of "Old Town Road," the No. 1 country-rap hit from newcomer Lil Nas X that was booted from the Billboard country songs chart when the tune was deemed not country enough.

Dan + Shay — who won a Grammy this year as well as honors at the Academy of Country Music Awards and the Billboard Music Awards — took home duo video of the year for "Speechless."

Zac Brown Band won group video of the year for "Someone I Used to Know."

Ashley McBryde won breakthrough video of the year. Michaels won collaborative video of the year for "Coming Home," while Kane Brown won male video of the year for "Lose It."

Luke Combs and R&B singer Leon Bridges — who won his first Grammy this year — won CMT performance of the year for "Beautiful Crazy" from the series "CMT Crossroads."

Co-creator: Smollett not returning to 'Empire'

There's another plot twist involving Jussie Smollett.

"Empire" co-creator Lee Daniels says the actor is not returning to the show — shortly after a report emerged stating the Fox series' writers were bracing for Smollett to come back.

"Jussie will NOT be returning to Empire," Daniels tweeted Tuesday.

Smollett's return to the drama series, which is gearing up for its sixth and final season, had been in question since Smollett asserted in February that Smollett staged an attack on himself in Chicago in January because he was unhappy with his salary.

Smollett has maintained his innocence and denied orchestrating the attack.

The actor, 36, first claimed to police that he was attacked by two men who hurled racial and homophobic slurs at him and placed a

rope around his neck. A three-week investigation followed.

Smollett was indicted by a grand jury on 16 counts of disorderly conduct in March, but all charges were dropped later that month. Cook County State's Attorney prosecutors have said the charges being dropped should not be viewed as an exoneration for Smollett, but rather the result of him agreeing to do community service and to hand over a \$10,000 bond to the city.

The "Empire" team had not said whether Smollett, who plays Jamal Lyon on the show, would return before Daniels' tweet.

Smollett's character was cut from the final two episodes of the show's fifth season after the allegations against him emerged, but episodes featuring Jamal that were already completed aired amid the controversy.

From the New York Daily News

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 041-7900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #2002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #2002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Tech firms have lost monopoly argument

By LIONEL LAURENT

The future of the tech industry was once decided by messianic entrepreneurs (assisted by venture capitalists and assorted Silicon Valley boosters) pumping out their sermons to rapt crowds in cavernous arenas. Today it's the fustier crew of competition regulators and policy wonks — more commonly spotted in carpeted conference rooms — who appear to have seized the pulpit.

Investors in Apple Inc., Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc. will no doubt testify to this shift in power after the threat of U.S. antitrust action caused their shares to fall at the start of this week (Apple's have rallied slightly).

There was certainly a great show of purpose from the attendees at an OECD trust-buster gathering that I attended in Paris on Monday, helped no doubt by the Americans finally starting to follow Europe's lead in tackling the tech giants' monopolistic tendencies. Margrethe Vestager, the European Union's top competition official, lined up with officials from the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission as well as top regulators from Britain, France and Germany to offer pointers about what lies in store for the industry.

While there's still plenty of tension between officials on both sides of the Atlantic, the overall picture was of a regulatory class that's determined to make up for lost time.

Even in Europe, there's a sense of having to do much in the hands of the market for too long. Vestager, looking back over her five-year tenure that resulted in three fines against Google, admitted, "We could have been faster."

Regret is a powerful thing, especially when the political pressure to act is rising. The example of Instagram was frequently

referred to as something that flew under everyone's radar. Its sale to Facebook for \$1 billion was waved through in 2012, largely because it had a handful of staff, earned no revenue and was to be kept at arm's length.

The fact that Instagram is now a behemoth in its own right has woken up regulators to the need to take a tougher line on big tech gobbling up promising startups.

Instagram had 30 million users at the time Facebook acquired it. Today, it has more than 1 billion. Crucially, Instagram shares vast amounts of user data with its parent network, a practice that drew objections from German regulators earlier this year.

Back in 2012, though, there were few concerns at the time that competition watchdogs wrote at the time that most third parties "did not believe that photo apps are attractive to advertisers," citing the fact that "limited" user data was captured.

In fairness to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, it's not his fault that he had a more acute grasp of Instagram's potential, but this shouldn't stop the market cops from trying to up their game to avoid even more social media power ending up in one man's hands.

How many other Instagrams have flown under the radar? It's hard to say.

Andrea Coscelli, head of the U.K.'s Competition and Markets Authority, estimates that Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft have together bought close to 250 companies in the past five years. For every big-budget acquisition like Facebook's "WhatsApp" deal, there are several like "tbn," a teen social network bought by Zuckerberg in 2017 and quietly shut down afterward.

There's a feeling among regulators that startups aren't really being given the

chance to grow and compete — they get bought as soon as they enter the Big Tech "kill zone" (where promising potential rivals are simply taken out).

Expect more of a push to tackle this practice, such as by lowering the burden of evidence required to identify potential anti-competitive harm from a takeover.

Ariel Ezrachi, professor of competition law at Oxford University, said officials are becoming alert to "the cost of doing nothing."

So should Google, Facebook and the rest expect a concerted antitrust crackdown from the U.S. to match the EU's?

Maybe, though at the OECD meeting there wasn't much appetite for aggressive action like breakups. Both the DOJ official, Andrew Finch, and the FTC's Noah Phillips were at pains to stress that size wasn't bad in itself, but "big, behaving badly," is a problem, Finch said. As such, hefty fines are a more likely outcome.

While there are plenty of other American voices calling for a revival of the kind of monopoly dismantling seen during the days of John D. Rockefeller, Finch said the current era felt less like the Gilded Age and more like the 1990s and 2000s, when companies used patents to stunt the growth of their rivals.

"These moments tend to work themselves out," he told me. Not exactly the kind of tub-thumping in which Elizabeth Warren might engage.

So the smart money's still on Europe taking the more adventurous and aggressive line. But even there, it's hard to ignore the shift on both sides of the Atlantic. People want tougher rules, and they will come.

Lionel Laurent is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Brussels. He previously worked at Reuters and Forbes.

Here's what gets lost when we rely on GPS

By M.R. O'CONNOR

Special to The Washington Post

It has become the most natural thing to do: Get in the car, type a destination into a smartphone, and let an algorithm using GPS data show the way.

Personal GPS-equipped devices entered the mass market in only the past 15 or so years, but hundreds of millions of people now rarely travel without them. These gadgets are extremely powerful, allowing people to know their location at all times, to explore unknown places and to avoid getting lost.

But they also affect perception and judgment. When people are told which way to turn, it relieves them of the need to create their own routes and remember them. They pay less attention to their surroundings. And neuroscientists can now see that brain behavior changes when people rely on turn-by-turn directions.

In a study published in *Nature Communications* in 2017, researchers asked subjects to navigate a virtual simulation of London's Soho neighborhood and monitored their brain activity, specifically the hippocampus, which is integral to spatial navigation. Those who were guided by directions showed less activity in this part of the brain than participants who navigated without the device.

"The hippocampus makes an internal map of the environment, and this map becomes active only when you are engaged in navigating and not using GPS," Amir-Homayoun Javadi, one of the study's authors, told me.

The hippocampus is crucial to many aspects of daily life. It allows us to orient in space and know where we are by creating cognitive maps. It also allows us to recall events from the past, what is known as episodic memory. And it is the part of the brain that neuroscientists believe gives us the ability to imagine ourselves in the future.

Studies have long shown the hippocampus is highly susceptible to experience. Meanwhile, atrophy in that part of the brain is linked to devastating conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder and Alzheimer's disease. Stress and depression tend to engage the hippocampus. Therefore, brain areas responsible for navigation is less used, and consequently their brain areas involved in navigation tend to shrink."

What isn't known is the effect of GPS use on hippocampal function when employed daily over long periods of time. Javadi said the conclusions he draws from recent studies is that "when people use tools such as GPS, they tend to engage less with navigation. Therefore, brain areas responsible for navigation is less used, and consequently their brain areas involved in navigation tend to shrink."

How people navigate naturally changes with age. Navigation aptitude appears to peak around age 19, and after that, most people slowly stop using spatial memory strategies to find their way, relying on habit instead. But neuroscientist Veronique Bohbot has found that using spatial-memory strategies for navigation correlates with increased gray matter in the hippocampus at any age. She thinks that interventions focused on improving spatial memory by exercising the hippocampus — paying attention to the spatial relationships of places

in our environment — might help offset age-related cognitive impairments or even neurodegenerative diseases.

"If we are paying attention to our environment, we are stimulating our hippocampus, and a bigger hippocampus seems to be protective against Alzheimer's disease," Bohbot said. "When we get lost, it activates the hippocampus; it gets us completely out of the habit mode. Getting lost is good!"

Saturated with devices, children today might grow up to see navigation from memory or a paper map as anachronistic. But for them especially, independent navigation and the freedom to explore are vital to acquiring spatial knowledge that may improve hippocampal function. Turning off the GPS and teaching them navigational skills could have enormous cognitive benefits later in life.

Over the past four years, I've spoken with master navigators from different cultures who showed me that practicing navigation is a powerful form of engagement with the environment that can inspire a greater sense of stewardship. Finding our way on our own — using perception, empirical observation and problem-solving skills — forces us to attune ourselves to the world. And by turning our attention to the physical landscape that sustains and creates us, we can nourish "topophilia," a sense of attachment and love for place. You'll never get that from waiting for a satellite to tell you how to find a shortcut.

M.R. O'Connor is a journalist who writes about science, technology and ethics and is the author of "Wayfinding: The Science and Mystery of How Humans Navigate the World."

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Honor the victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot
Keith Cox saved the residents of Virginia Beach in the public utilities department for 12 years.

Well-liked by co-workers, he spent his final moments on Friday working to protect them from a gunman in the municipal center — sacrificing his life in the process.

The remembrance of Cox, published in *The Pilot* on Monday, is one of many heart-breaking stories to emerge from the darkness that hangs over this community days after the worst mass shooting in the city's history.

Attention should be paid to the criminal investigation being conducted by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. They are diving into the details of the shooter's life, his movements prior to the attack and the possible motivation for this horrific act in the hope of gaining some insight into why and how this happened.

But for now, our focus should be on those precious lives cut short on Friday, celebrating their memory and paying tribute to their selflessness. They deserve no less from the community they served.

So let us remember Cox, the public utilities account clerk who was described as a jovial, caring co-worker and a talented singer in the choir at New Hope Baptist Church, where his father serves as pastor. As the shooter roamed the building, Cox ushered several employees into an office, telling them to lock the door while he looked for others to help.

Rich Nettleton spent 28 years working for the city as a utilities engineer. A Norfolk resident and Old Dominion University graduate, he was a lieutenant for the Army's 130th Engineer Brigade in Germany, where he served with Beach City Manager Dave Hansen.

Joshua Hardy spent more than four years as an engineering technician, but loved ones remembered him as a devout Christian whose love for children led him to author "The ABC Book on Protecting Yourself from Strangers," a book he self-published in 2011.

Missy Langer worked as an administrative assistant in the public utilities department for 12 years. Neighbors recalled her as a passionate Pittsburgh Steelers fan. She had a tough few years, lost both her parents in the last five years, but was proud of the life she built in Virginia Beach.

Kate Nixon was an engineer with a decade of experience working for the city, whose love of her husband and three children was plainly evident to all who knew her.

Alex Gusev came to this country from Belarus in 2003 and was recalled by a colleague as "a model professional" who handled right-of-way issues for Virginia Beach. He was also a graduate of ODU who was quick to help friends and loved ones in need.

Most of her 24 years in Virginia Beach government, Mary Lou Gayle worked as a right-of-way agent who was recalled by neighbors for the upkeep and improvements made to her home, which was described as "gorgeous." A parishioner at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, Gayle was well thought of by all those in her orbit.

Tara Gallagher, a graduate of Portsmouth's Woodrow Wilson High School,



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Candles representing twelve victims of a shooting at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Va., stand alongside a framed photograph of the victims during a vigil Sunday at Piney Grove Baptist Church in Virginia Beach.

earned two engineering degrees from ODU before joining the city six years ago. LaQuita Brown, a Chesapeake resident, was a right-of-way agent for more than four years. Bert Snelling was a contractor visiting Building 2 for a permit when the shooting began.

Another ODU graduate, Chris Rapp, joined the city 11 months ago after serving as Stafford County's public works director for two years. He was recalled for his love of bagpipes, which he played with Tide-water Pipes & Drums, and his devotion to family and friends.

And Bobby Williams, who joined the city in 1981, was repeatedly honored for his lengthy public service throughout his career. He was the type of employee who provides invaluable continuity and institutional memory to municipal government.

Stories about each of the victims are available to read. They have been told with respect, grace and sensitivity, honoring the memory of each life lost and the emotional toll on those left behind.

Hold them all in your hearts.

Remember the reality of war on D-Day anniversary

The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer

On June 7, 1944, readers of *The Plain Dealer* got a firsthand account of the Allies' pivotal D-Day landing the day before from the paper's war correspondent, Roeliff Loveland, writing "from a balcony seat high up in God's heaven," as flak and tracer bullets lit up the sky around his aircraft.

And the Cleveland family of 1st Lt. Howard C. Quiggle was also able to read that he was alive and well — and piloting the B-26 Marauder that had ferried Loveland to his eagle's perch above the battle, "riding the tail of a comet to see history in the making," as Loveland wrote in his *Page One* story after that fateful day.

The D-Day landings that changed the course of war and accelerated Adolf Hitler's slow descent to defeat were launched 75 years ago this week.

"We will accept nothing less than full Victory!" came the order from Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, U.S. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Yet victory was never certain. A hand-written note from Ike, written in case of defeat, concludes, "The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

Fortunately, bravery and devotion, as well as luck, planning, daring and deep sacrifice by those who launched and fought

on those bloody beaches, did the trick. Attacking along 50 miles of shoreline, more than 4,000 Allied troops fell on that first day. But many more followed, beginning the drive for Berlin.

Where are they now, those intrepid paratroopers, bombardiers, pilots, medics, Army Rangers and all those others who stormed ashore on June 6, 1944?

Like 1st Lt. Quiggle and Roeliff Loveland, a World War I combat veteran considered one of the greatest writers ever to grace the pages of *The Plain Dealer*, most have passed on to their rewards. Only about 30 American survivors were expected to attend this year's D-Day battle anniversary in France. Nearly 350 World War II veterans die every day, the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department estimates, according to *The Associated Press*.

Pretty soon, they all will be gone — and the rest of us must be the ones to carry forward their stories and remember the history they forged and their sacrifice and that of their fallen comrades.

Longtime Plain Dealer military affairs reporter Brian Albrecht has helped by spending years compiling vivid stories from D-Day survivors and others who fought in or contributed to the war effort during World War II. Twelve of those stories were highlighted in Sunday's Plain Dealer, from the 2008 remembrances of the late English clerk Betty Leighty, of Parma Heights, who came to the United States as a war bride in 1946, to John Bistrica's vivid 1944 depiction of the tumultuous, bloody landing at Omaha Beach and the night he spent freezing, wet and hungry in a 20-foot hole he had to dig himself. Bistrica at 95 was recently profiled in *The Vindicator* of Youngstown, where he lives.

Their powerful stories need to be remembered, along with the D-Day fight, so crucial to ultimate victory in that war.

But are our collective memories fading too fast? An Associated Press story in *The Plain Dealer* on Tuesday reported that many states no longer require D-Day to be part of the history curriculum.

The Ohio Department of Education's 52-page model "American History" curriculum, posted at education.ohio.gov, does not mention D-Day.

That doesn't mean that teachers can't teach it — and many probably do. And educators might argue that, as we get farther away in time from a conflict, teaching its root causes and long-term impacts becomes more important than the specifics of any given battle.

But specifics of battle also matter: The

nitty-gritty reality of war matters.

So on this 75th anniversary of the D-Day battle, we collectively should resolve to work harder to make sure this history, this sacrifice, this longest day, isn't lost when the last veteran of that battle departs his Earthly existence.

Better late than never with storm recovery funds

The Houston Chronicle

Can you hear us now? The Trump administration's outrageous delays in making available more than \$12 billion in storm recovery funds — about \$4.3 billion of the total is for Texas — have finally been dealt with.

The House on Monday approved a Senate bill that sets a 90-day countdown for the administration to formally invite states such as Texas to submit spending plans for the money. That will kick-start the release of the funds. That means flood recovery funds approved by Congress just months after Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017 will get to Texas in 2020.

That's astoundingly tardy, and yet even getting that much grease in the gears took — quite literally — an act of Congress.

When Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush began raising hell with the administration over the delays early this year, folks at Housing and Urban Development, which administers the funds, and the Office of Management of Budget, which approves all new rules, seemed anything but fazed. At that time, aides to both Sen. Ted Cruz and Sen. John Cornyn told the editorial board that they had also been hammering at the administration to add a sense of urgency. None of that got far.

Instead, what worked was individual members of Congress decided to cross party lines and introduce legislation that would force the administration's hand.

Cornyn teamed with Sen. Joe Manchin, the West Virginia Democrat, on a bill to require the disbursement of the funds. A similar bill was authored in the House by a gaggle of members of Congress, including Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, D-Houston. Neither bill passed, but Cornyn and others managed to include its basic provisions in a larger disaster funding bill that did. Now all that's required is President Donald Trump's signature, which he's expected to give.

Congratulations to Cornyn, Manchin and the House members who made it so. Perhaps there's a lesson about dealing with the president: Talk is cheap, but legislation can produce results.

As we await the presidential signature, we note that many questions have been left unanswered.

Why was the administration so slow? HUD officials told the editorial board earlier this year that because the funds were being spent in new ways — on preventing future flood damage rather than repairing damage from previous floods — new rules were needed.

Congress was right to change the focus of these funds, but HUD should never have allowed the simple change to slow things down so profoundly. Others worried that the real reason for the delays flowed from the president's bitter reaction to Puerto Rico and the recovery it so badly needs in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

Absent proof, we'll pray that the latter fed played no role in the delays. And either way, the intricacies of Team Trump's machinations can be the subject for a debate another day.

The welcome news this week is that Congress intervened in a way that should pay dividends for Texas, and fairly soon.

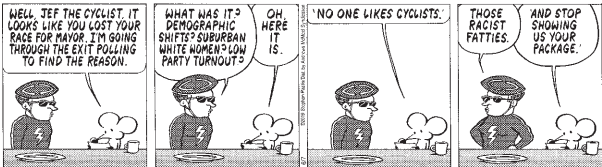
Frazz



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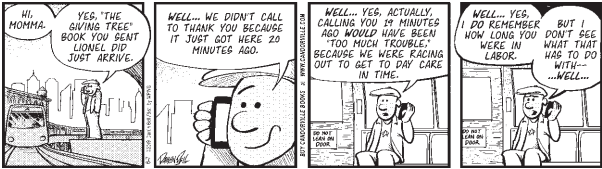
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



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Carpe Diem



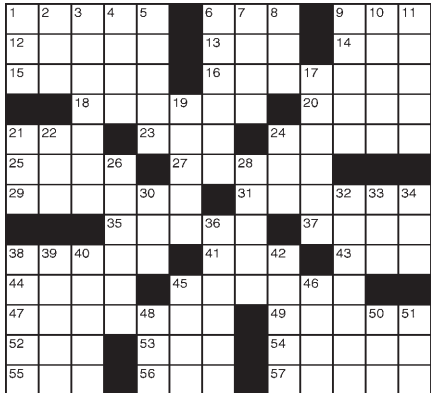
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



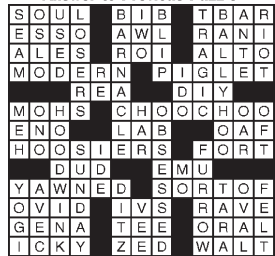
ACROSS

- Breath fresheners
- Jazzy style
- Monk's title
- Pub perch
- Greek H
- Yank's foe
- Very beginning
- Difficult
- Imam's place
- Conks out
- Fluffy scarf
- Drone
- Leans
- Has
- Monastery VIP
- Restitution
- Travel papers
- Nickelodeon's "Explorer"

DOWN

- Flavor enhancer, for short
- Mineral suffix
- A few
- Takeout request
- Wade through mud
- Render senseless
- Oklahoma tribe
- Bit of butter
- Dedicate
- Spotwatch button
- Void
- Redacted
- Campus areas
- Short 'do
- Have debts
- Male turkey
- Part of USSR
- No-frills
- Kibosh
- Never
- Hosp. workers
- Enervate
- Extraterrestrials
- De Mille of dance
- Whips
- Japanese bedroll
- Advantage
- It gets in the whey
- Hindu royal
- Regret
- Belly
- Farm pen

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-7

CRYPTOQUIP

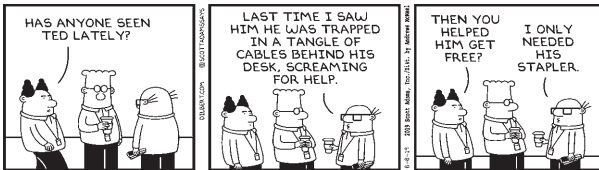
LA Q TPBLKLZSI UZZW ZA
JPYZNLZCI BPYLNQNPJ BLWP
DQKLG, GZSBJ LN UP Q

ISTAQGP-NZ-QLT DLIIQB?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY SAILOR FRIEND WAS A VERY WARM, LIKABLE FELLOW ALL THE TIME. YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BOATER!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals M

Frazz



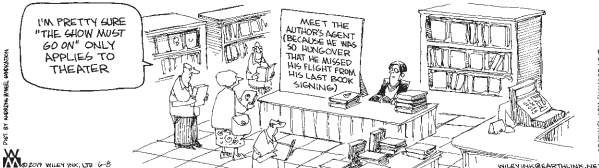
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Pearls Before Swine



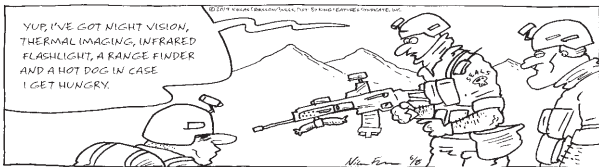
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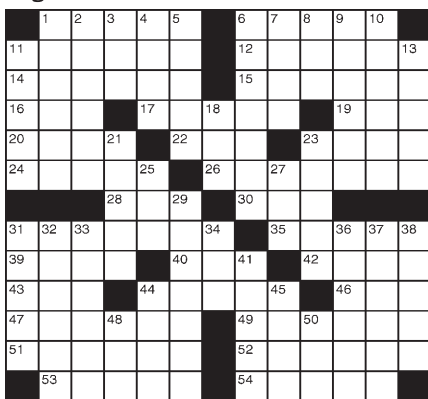
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Glasses, slangily
- 6 Acid type
- 11 "Cut that out!"
- 12 Alphs' opposites
- 14 He loved Roxane
- 15 Not certain
- 16 PC key
- 17 Blue Grotto isle
- 19 Hearty quaff
- 20 Floral rings
- 22 Vat
- 23 Peevish fit
- 24 Song of praise
- 26 Olympic skater Brian
- 28 "Certainly!"
- 30 Away from SSW
- 31 Mexican chili pepper
- 35 Labrador explorer
- 39 Nashville venue
- 40 "A spider!"
- 42 "— Breckinridge"
- 43 Fib
- 44 King of Judea
- 46 Taunting laugh
- 47 Captivate
- 49 Comic Ray
- 51 Bagel choice
- 52 Retaliate

DOWN

- 53 Trusty horse
- 54 Dweebs
- 21 In a sneaky way
- 23 Fulton's power
- 25 — culpa
- 27 Business mag
- 29 Showed scorn
- 31 Fishing rods
- 32 Speaks one's mind
- 33 Chicken serving
- 34 "— the ramparts ..."
- 36 Manually
- 37 Arboreal apes
- 38 Western resort lake
- 41 Imam's holy book
- 44 Abode
- 45 Peace symbol
- 48 Astronaut
- 49 Jemison
- 50 Mal de —

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-8

CRYPTOQUIP

ZSGMYR IMWDQ SIV ZLQG
WLQQSLI FBM ADUSGD
FDQQ-JIMFI ZMO YRLIX
ODSVLIX VDRJR: BSIILASQ
QDUEDO.I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A RELIGIOUS BOOK OF DEVOTIONS LEVITATED LIKE MAGIC, COULD IT BE A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSAL?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

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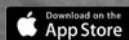
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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Soccer: Erin Goodman, Wiesbaden

Erin Goodman certainly has the skills and statistics for individual stardom. But that's not her priority.

"I never heard her talk about all of the goals she scored this season," Wiesbaden coach Nicole Angel said. "Instead she would always say how great the team was."

As it turned out, there was plenty of greatness to go around. The Warriors won the Division I championship, and Goodman is the Stars and Stripes girls soccer Athlete of the Year.

Goodman turned in one of the most overwhelming offensive seasons in DODEA Europe history this spring. She totaled 42 goals in 14 combined regular-season and postseason matches, a per-game average that works out to a hat trick. She scored 38 of those goals against D-I competition, and 12 of them in the European tournament. Finally, Goodman added nine assists to those prodigious goal-scoring totals.

But not even those impressive numbers can take precedence over Goodman's status as a member of the triumphant Warriors.

"We're just so tight-knit, we have such a bond. It's unbreakable," Goodman said. "We are a family, we always say that."

To that end, Goodman also served as a team co-captain and one of the Warriors' primary leaders, both by word and by example.



BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

"She motivated the team when they were down and her energy level was always at the highest level," Angel said. "Her work ethic is second to none. As soon as she stepped onto the pitch during practice or a game she gave 100 percent and never any less."

That approach has now earned Goodman and the Warriors two

European titles in the past three seasons, with perhaps another to follow. Angel said Goodman, in the days following Wiesbaden's 2019 title win, was already looking forward to returning for another run as a senior next spring.

"She's a true Warrior to her core," Angel said.

broome.gregory@stripes.com

Softball: Chenoa Gragg, Vicenza

Vicenza junior Chenoa Gragg entered this season established as one of the most dominant pitchers and best all-around players in DODEA Europe softball.

The leaps she made this spring have made her the 2019 Stars and Stripes softball Athlete of the Year.

"I felt a lot more confident," Gragg said of her outstanding spring season. "It was a lot more fun."

Gragg's remarkable improvements came in nearly every facet of the game and were borne out by impressive statistics.

As a pitcher, Gragg struck out 119 batters in 61 innings, allowing a batting average of .169 while producing a 2.40 earned run average. At the plate, Gragg notched 27 hits in 65 at-bats for a .415 batting average along with 22 RBI and 16 runs scored.

Gragg's leap to another level of stardom started with her psychological approach to the game. Once profoundly affected by mistakes on the mound, she learned this spring to better "control" her response to such adversity.

"The biggest thing was the mental part," Gragg said. "I lacked confidence when I came up to the pitching mound, it kind of dragged down my self-esteem."

While honing her mental approach to the game, Gragg also improved her mechanics. Prompted in part by a late-season arm in-



NORMAN LLAMAS/Stars and Stripes

jury that hampered her throwing strength, Gragg learned to incorporate more lower-body strength to "drive the ball" past hitters more effectively than ever and avoid undue stress on her arm.

"That's something I definitely had to work on. I would get very tired in past seasons with my arm because I wasn't using as much lower body," Gragg said. "That's the biggest thing I improved on this year."

All of those upgrades transformed Gragg from one of DODEA Europe's finest pitchers into something even more imposing.

"Chenoa was, in my opinion, the single most dominant pitcher in the league this year," Vicenza coach Timothy Streeter said.

Baseball: Austin Deckinga, Wiesbaden

For Wiesbaden baseball coach Steve Jewell, Warriors star Austin Deckinga merges a lot of positive qualities that don't often exist within the same player.

A "natural athlete" with the work ethic to maximize those gifts.

A calm, "even-keel" presence on the diamond with the competitive fire to "amp it up" when the situation requires.

An all-around player who can contribute to winning in any number of ways but still manages to "stay within himself."

Finally, a newcomer to an established program who accepted a leadership role without hesitation.

That combination of skills and abilities had made Deckinga the 2019 Stars and Stripes baseball Athlete of the Year.

"He's a joy to coach," Jewell said.

Deckinga's statistics this season bear out his coach's superlatives. On the mound, Deckinga struck out 48 batters and pitched to a 0.95 earned run average; at the plate, he reached base more often than not, posting a .489 batting average and a .554 on-base percentage.

While the Warriors were thrilled to add Deckinga to the program upon his October arrival from Florida, Deckinga himself was pleased to find a solid baseball program awaiting him in Germany. A veteran of highly competi-



BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

tive prep ball in the St. Petersburg area, Deckinga was concerned about what he'd encounter on the rougher diamonds of Europe, and how it might affect his development as a baseball prospect. He was pleasantly surprised with how the spring played out.

"I didn't think it would help me at all," Deckinga said. "But it honestly did a lot."

And Deckinga's presence certainly benefited the Warriors, who enjoyed a 10-2 regular-season record and a strong run to the Division I semifinals.

"I've always been taught...to take leadership when it's needed," Deckinga said. "I carried that out here."

Soccer: Alessandro Ianni, AOSR

Alessandro Ianni would have left American Overseas School of Rome with a memorable, accomplished career regardless of what happened in his final DODEA Europe match.

But what happened in that match made it all the more remarkable.

Ianni played a role in each of his team's goals in AOSR's 4-0 defeat of Aviano in the Division II boys soccer championship game May 23, scoring three of them himself and assisting on the other. The brilliant performance scripted a perfect end to the senior's AOSR soccer career and was among the reasons for Ianni's selection as the Stars and Stripes boys soccer Athlete of the Year.

"His first love has always been soccer," said AOSR athletic director Daniel Zaccaroli, who said he has known Ianni since middle school. "It has been great watching him grow, both as a player and as a young adult."

Ianni put that maturity on display in the European tournament. The goals did not always come easily for the favored Falcons, who fought through a 1-1 preliminary tie with Aviano and a 1-0 semifinal victory over defending champion AFNORTH to claw their way into the finals and earn a shot at the elusive Division II title.

That all changed in the finals as Ianni put on a masterful goal-scoring exhibition, starting with a beautiful solo score in the opening minutes that set the tone for a runaway AOSR victory.

"The moment I saw it went in I was going crazy," Ianni said. "The team felt the energy, it was building up. We knew it was coming. We knew we had the skills."

Ianni finished with 18 goals and 10 assists in 18 games this season. But his contributions were also of the intangible variety. Zaccaroli said Ianni "worked to bridge gaps" between players of diverse ages and backgrounds on the team.

In short, Ianni enjoyed a senior season for the



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

ages. "He is the most talented player that I've coached," AOSR head coach Giacomo Castelli Avolio said. "A true leader and captain."

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Soccer: Siobhan Grabski, Zama

Siohban Grabski clearly loves a challenge, her coach Manny Duarte says.

It shows in her first loves on the athletic field of play (soccer) and the career path she's chosen for herself (classical music).

The specific position she plays on the pitch, midfield, and the instrument she plays, the French Horn, each have a high degree of difficulty.

"Were it on a piano, you can look at the note and play it, but with the French Horn, you have to have an idea of what the note sounds like in order for it to come out correctly," said Grabski, a Zama senior.

Same truths hold for being a midfielder, she said. "The creativity in being a midfielder can be similar; you have to see the play in your mind before you can construct it."

Grabski and her teammates constructed quite a few good plays, which led to one of the best seasons in Trojans girls soccer history — an 8-2 record, including a runner-up finish in the DODEA Japan and a school-first title in the Far East tournament.

Along the way, Grabski recorded 16 goals and 18 assists, figuring in 34 of the Trojans' 104 goals, and as defensive midfielder, she helped hold down opponents to a .74 goals-against average, 17 goals in 23 matches.

For all that, Grabski has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific



HANNAH MICHAEL/Special to Stripes

girls soccer Athlete of the Year.

Grabski noses out a very tight field of nominees led by Maggie Donnelly, a sophomore who had 35 goals and 19 assists for Division I champ Kinnick.

Grabski, a four-year varsity starter, was responsible for far more than goals, assists and defense, Duarte said.

"She has the skills and experience, but the differentiating factor was her leadership, on and off the field," he said.

Grabski was responsible, Duarte said, for reinforcing coaches' instructions and strategies. She would always provide positive

motivation, "always uplifting and supporting" and leading by example, whether during a practice or match or just being a friend.

Similar to her school band practices, much of the Trojans' success on the pitch involved study and repetition, Grabski said.

"There are elements you can practice beforehand, things we can construct in practice as a team," she said. "Looking at what you have and deciding the best avenues and options. Doing it over and over again until you do it right."

Such were the contributions that made Grabski "invaluable" to Zama's title effort, Duarte said.

Grabski said she and her teammates maintained focus until the end of the final game, a 3-0 win over defending champion Yokota.

"It was surreal that the last whistle blew and we were Far East champions," Grabski said. "I couldn't believe that we was the last game we had to play. I was so much in game mode, I had to talk to myself and realize there wasn't another match to play for. It was done."

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

Stars and Stripes All-Far East girls soccer team

Kinnick — Maggie Donnelly, Ella Elsenhardt, Megan Thomas, Aanna Taylor; **Zama** — Kayesha McNeill, Siobhan Grabski, Chloe Sterling; **American School in Japan** — Ava Vander Louw, Shuly Zuo; **Yokota** — Caleigh Garcia; **Kadena** — Megan Kirby, Korina Radici; **Perry** — Micayla Feltner, E.J. King; **Gabi Shultz**; **Humphreys** — Arelle Stickler.

Soccer: Kai Sullivan, Kinnick

There's no question Kai Sullivan can put the ball in the net, with his three-year total of 95 goals — including 35 this just-completed season.

But if one looks beyond the statistics and sees where the Kinnick junior played throughout an 80-minute match, one can agree with Sullivan and his coach, Tim Rippeth, that Sullivan is trying to become a more well-rounded player.

"The soccer IQ he passed along (to teammates) was definitely evident every time we went up against another team," said Rippeth, who took the helm of a Red Devils team that last season was more of a scoring machine, but this season was "more well-rounded."

"Creating opportunities (for teammates) was something I saw a lot of from Kai," Rippeth said. "Creating opportunities (for other players) to finish, not just for him to push the ball off his foot."

Sure, Sullivan led the team in goals for the third straight season. But he also led Kinnick in assists, with 10, for the first time in his three seasons in red and white.

Sullivan also paced the Red Devils to an 18-3-1 record, a third-place finish in the Perry Cup in March, second in the DODEA Japan tournament and the first Far East Division I Tournament title in school history.

For all that, plus the Far East Most Valuable Player and Golden Boot awards, Sullivan has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific's boys soccer Athlete of the Year.

In 2018, "I had a phenomenal midfield giving me good support," Sullivan said of players like Akimanzu Siibo — who sat out this season with a knee injury — and Joey Hand and Cal Bowen, who combined for 29 assists while Sullivan had 37 goals and seven assists.

This season, "We had a lot of new freshmen come in and they were attack-minded," Sullivan said.

"I thought it would be a good idea [for them] to experience playing up top. I already had two years



MARY OHSUNA/Special to Stripes

Nile C. Kinnick junior Kai Sullivan, right

up front. I thought I could track back and help the midfield, which was also quite young. Drop back a little bit, help them and have the younger kids get their scoring chances."

Kinnick didn't score as many goals as it did last season, but it also came up strong defensively with Far East D-I Best Goalkeeper Nick Burke holding down the back end.

"It felt great to actually get the banner," said Sullivan, whose Red Devils came in third at Far East the last two seasons. He could feel the pain senior players felt those last two times at Far East.

"To see them suffer through the years we got third, having their heads down, being disappointed that they couldn't get theirs, it was heartbreaking," he said. "I really wanted that banner this year. That was the main objective."

Stars and Stripes All-Far East boys soccer team

Kinnick — Kai Sullivan, Jack Boran, Carl Bowen, Nick Burke; **Kadena** — Kian Smith, Nao Heckerman; **Christian Academy Japan** — Enosh Mutenda, Joshua Mine; **Kubasaki** — Shinji Phatratikoune, Jeffrey Horton, Noah Hayes; **Osan American** — Joey Betts; **Perry** — Kai Lange; **Yokota** — Zach Namoc; **Humphreys** — Devin Donnell.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Baseball: Riley DeMarco, Yokota

Play solid defense. No matter what happens, just don't make mistakes.

That was the philosophy that Yokota, and his senior cornerstone Riley DeMarco, employed throughout the Pacific baseball season, and what led the Panthers to back-to-back Far East Division II Tournament titles and their fourth straight DODEA Japan championship.

"Just come in and play our game, make no errors," said DeMarco, a senior who pitched, played center field and first base and led the Panthers team that made just seven errors in 14 games against D-II opponents, including just one in the Far East D-II Tournament.

"Making only one error in Far East, that was big for us," DeMarco said. DeMarco was 3-0 on the mound with a 2.36 ERA, 32 strikeouts in 29 1/3 innings and threw a no-hitter in a 7-1 win March 22 over Matthew C. Perry. DeMarco also batted .437 with 20 RBIs and 18 stolen bases and had an .879 fielding percentage, four errors on 33 total chances.

For all that plus the tournament titles, DeMarco has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific's baseball Athlete of the Year.

Yokota went 19-7-1 during the season, with all the losses coming against Division I opponents. But only four of the D-I defeats were one-sided, all against six-time D-I champion American School in Japan, and DeMarco said the Panthers gained a lot from the closer losses.

"The D-I schools are a lot better, more challenging, a lot more experienced," DeMarco said. "Sometimes losing close games, it's good to experience that. It makes you want to win."

What the Panthers hoped to avoid, especially in tournament play, was making a handful of errors and giving up resulting unearned runs in one inning, "and that would be what would kill us," DeMarco said.

Taking their lumps against the D-I powers, in particular 16-2, 16-2, 5-0 and 18-3 losses to ASIJ, gave the Panthers the fire testing they needed for tournament play, he said. "We had confidence in ourselves ... so we rolled with that in the tournaments," DeMarco said.

DeMarco was one of the keys in instilling the confidence needed by the younger players on a team that lost several key cogs from the 2018 championship squad, first-year head coach LeSean Thomas said.

"If we didn't have him, it would have been a very different season," Thomas said. "We definitely have had to fight a lot more than we had to in win Far East. It would not have been an easy ride."

As team captain, DeMarco would at times serve as a coach on the field, providing instruction to the newer players, Thomas said.

"Try to keep a positive attitude, keep a good mood," DeMarco said. "If any of the younger kids with less experience had questions, I let them know they could come to me and I would help them as much as possible."

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Stars and Stripes All-Far East baseball team

American School in Japan — Ian Donahue, Taiyo Ueda, Ken Hemmer, Yamato Hilly Yokota — Riley DeMarco, Nick Yingglue, Jeff Mullerkey, Glen Willingham; **Kubasaki** — Samuel Williams; **ASIJ** — Leo Schirmer; **Kadena** — Logan Howell; **Humphreys** — Kierden Blessing; **Daegu** — Elijah Bembschew.

NFL

Beckham giddy about new start

Receiver excited to be with Browns

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Once Odell Beckham Jr. found his way back to Ohio, it didn't take him long to notice a change.

"I feel something in the air," he said. "Something special that Cleveland hasn't had for a while."

Beckham has breathed new life into the Browns.

The superstar wide receiver held court for nearly 20 minutes Wednesday in his first media availability since Cleveland introduced him to its ravenous fan base in a news conference on April 1. Beckham, whose antics in New York became tabloid fodder for five seasons, spent most of the past eight weeks away from the team getting his body into peak condition and his mind right.

The 26-year-old said he's never felt better.

"Mentally, physically, spiritually, I've gone to a different place," he said. "For the people that know me, they know I'm in a place I've never been in in my entire life and I'm just happy with where I am at and I'm always going to keep it pushing."

Wearing an orange zip-up jacket with a pulled-up brown hoodie framing his face, Beckham smiled easily and often during his interview session while fenced in by one dozen TV cameras.

He feels refreshed and can hardly contain his excitement to be joining an offense that includes

quarterback Baker Mayfield and close friend Jarvis Landry.

"I'm almost giddy," he said. "I feel like a little kid with the excitement that I have, seeing Baker, seeing these guys. We talk a lot about this offense, but this defense is something special and this team is really coming together. But the good part about it is that it's the beginning of June and we still got a lot of time, we still got a training camp to go through and I feel like this team is going to come together."

"But I'm beyond excited about the opportunity I have here to start over, a new team. Obviously, the goal is always going to be the same — to hang banners, that's what you play this game. We know we got a lot of expectations. We got a lot of work to do and I think we'll get there."

The Browns are just happy he's around.

They haven't seen much of the three-time Pro Bowler, who skipped the majority of the team's voluntary offseason workout program, showing up for just one practice while opting to train on his own in California.

Beckham, of course, stayed in the spotlight during his extended absence by chronicling his trips to Coachella, the Met Gala and Monaco's Grand Prix with a steady stream of postings on Instagram.

It's how Beckham rolls, and the Browns are quickly learning that his off-field moves will be as scrutinized as any pass patterns. But they were OK with his

'I didn't get in this game to get money or anything like that. I got in this game to be a champion.'

Odell Beckham Jr.
Browns receiver



RON SCHWANE/AP

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. catches a pass during a drill at the team's training facility Tuesday in Berea, Ohio. Beckham was traded to the Browns this offseason.

solo mission, and believe going forward he'll put the team first. Beckham stayed in touch over the past two months with coach Freddie Kitchens, who isn't worried about the playmaker being behind.

"Odell is a bright guy," Kitchens said following a workout forced indoors by thunderstorms. "He is smart. It is not like this is the first time he has opened up our (play) book. He has been studying and all that kind of stuff. Odell is making progress just like everybody else. Odell had some bad plays, and he had some good plays. He is going to continue to grow and learn, and that is what everybody else is going to do. Odell doesn't have a magic wand."

"He is going to come out and he is going to work. He is going to work as hard as anybody to get better every day, a little bit better every day."

Beckham learned during his time in New York that everything he says will be dissected, analyzed and even twisted. In a recent Q&A interview, Beckham said he wanted to bring championships to Cleveland and hoped to turn the Browns "into the new Patriots."

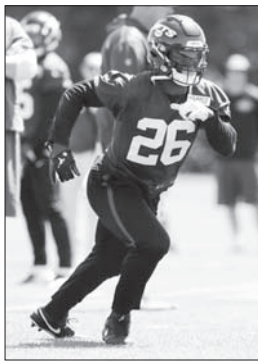
He was criticized for the remark, but it's not as if he didn't expect backlash.

"I'm not surprised with anything," he said. "I feel like I could sit in a corner in a room full of people and not try and bother

anybody and it would be like, 'You too good to be out here with the rest of us?' It's just a tough situation for me to be in. Anything that I say I know is going to take off. I've gotten used to it."

But Beckham didn't come to Cleveland to be second-best to anyone.

"I didn't get in this game to get money or anything like that. I got in this game to be a champion. All my life, I've never really been a champion," he said before telling how he lost a title basketball game in sixth grade when his shot at the buzzer was disallowed. "They called it off, they told me it was no good and I remember crying that entire night. I want to win. I want to be a champion."



JULIO CORTIZ/AP

Running back Le'Veon Bell signed a four-year, \$52.5 million deal with the Jets after sitting out last season in Pittsburgh.

Trash-talking Bell makes Jets debut

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Le'Veon Bell simply couldn't control himself. Well, mostly his mouth.

The New York Jets running back was back on a practice field for the first time in 17 months and was downright giddy. And, he let his new teammates on defense know all about it.

"It was amazing," a grinning Bell said Tuesday after the Jets began their three-day minicamp. "Just running around and just being able to trash talk and catch some balls and just sweat in your helmet — you know, things that we kind of take for granted when you're playing."

"The fact I had that whole year off and came out here and played football again, it felt so good."

Bell, who sat out voluntary workouts this offseason, was limited in his first full practice with the Jets. But, he was plenty involved with ratcheting up the overall

\$500K of jewelry stolen

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Authorities say two female acquaintances vanished with more than half a million dollars in jewelry from star New York Jets running back Le'Veon Bell's Florida home.

Hollywood police say Bell returned from the gym May 25 and found the women gone and his jewelry missing.

The police report obtained by The Associated Press refers to the two women as Bell's girlfriends.

Bell said his closet was in disarray and all his jewelry was missing, including two gold chains with diamonds, a black panther pendant with black and white diamonds and a Rolex. They total \$520,000. Police said they are investigating.

— Associated Press

energy on the field — talking smack with defensive players throughout.

"You've got a loudmouth on defense," a smiling left tackle Kelvin Beachum said, referring to always-chatty safety Jamal Adams. "And, now, we've got a loudmouth on offense."

"I'll be fun."

Bell signed a four-year, \$52.5 million deal — including \$35 million guaranteed — with the Jets in March after sitting out all last season with Pittsburgh in a contract dispute.

The 27-year-old running back has been around his teammates sporadically throughout the offseason, but chose to work out on his own with a personal trainer in Florida rather than participate in the team's voluntary workouts.

Bell has rushed for 5,336 yards and 35 touchdowns, and has 312 catches for 2,660 yards and seven scores in his NFL career. His 128.9 yards per scrimmage per game over his career is the best mark in the NFL since the 1970 merger.

STANLEY CUP FINAL/COLLEGE BASEBALL



SCOTT KANE/AP

Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara kneels on the ice after being hit in the face by the puck during the second period of Game 4 of Stanley Cup Final on Monday, in St. Louis.

Blues winning war of attrition

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

BOSTON — Twice the Boston Bruins have been forced to finish a Stanley Cup Final game down a defenseman. The St. Louis Blues won each time.

That's not a coincidence. Wearing out opponents and winning the war of attrition has been an ingredient of the Blues' playoff success. They took advantage of injuries to San Jose's Erik Karlsson, Joe Pavelski and Tomas Hertl to move on to the final, and with Boston potentially without captain Zdeno Chara for Game 5 Thursday, St. Louis is two victories away from lifting the Stanley Cup as the healthier team.

"We can see it throughout games and throughout series," Blues captain Alex Pietrangolo said Wednesday. "It's tough minutes to play against our forward lines when they're playing the way they can. You can see the momentum we create by our line changes in the offensive zone, we're just using all four lines. If I was a defenseman, that would be tough to defend against."

Chara did not go to the arena at all Wednesday, 36 hours after taking a puck to the jaw in Boston's Game 4 loss that tied the series at two games apiece. Coach Bruce Cassidy didn't talk to and only briefly texted with the 42-year-old defenseman, who has a facial injury that has been reported to be a broken jaw.

Just like the Sharks series in the Western Conference finals, the Blues insist their game plan doesn't change depending on who's in or out of the lineup on the other side. That includes Chara, even though missing him on the penalty kill and defensively could make a big difference.

The absence of Chara could prove to be the tipping point in a bruising battle between the Bruins and Blues. Boston defenseman Matt Grzelcyk is out with a concussion and St. Louis forward Robert Thomas is out with a suspected hand or wrist injury. Cassidy said Grzelcyk, who practiced

NHL scoreboard

Stanley Cup Final

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

Boston 2, St. Louis 2

Boston 4, St. Louis 2
St. Louis 3, Boston 2, OT
Boston 7, St. Louis 2
St. Louis 4, Boston 2
Thursday: at Boston
Sunday, June 9, at St. Louis. AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT.
X-Wednesday, June 12: at Boston. AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Thursday CET; 9 a.m. Thursday JKT.

in a no-contact jersey Wednesday, is still in concussion protocol and would need to be medically cleared to play in Game 5.

If Boston is without two of its top five defensemen in Chara and Grzelcyk, it would mean bigger roles for John Moore and Connor Clifton and the possibility of Steven Kampfer seeing his first action since Game 1 of the East finals. And the Bruins' entire approach would change.

"You lose a little bit of your team defense, well, maybe you've got to create more offense to balance that out," Cassidy said. "You got a guy that kills penalties well, maybe stay a little more disciplined. Down the line of how can you make up for what he brings without one guy going in there."

Meanwhile, St. Louis is relatively healthy except for Thomas. The Blues got defenseman Vince Dunn back for Game 4 after he missed almost three weeks after taking a puck to the face in the West finals, and he assisted on a goal and drastically improved their puck movement.

"He's a dynamic player," coach Craig Berube said. "He can make something out of nothing a lot of times. He's very good at that. He's elusive and even coming out of our own end, you feel like there are times when the puck is going to get stopped up and he'll do something and make a move and a quick play with the puck that breaks a guy out and it's a great play that we're going up the ice now."

Vanderbilt trying to slug its way back to Omaha

No. 2 seed Commodores one of best-hitting teams

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Julian Infante tipped his cap to the applauding fans after being named MVP of the Nashville Regional following his impressive hitting performance.

The Vanderbilt senior went 6-for-12 in three games, cranking out three home runs, three doubles and five RBIs. And he did it from the ninth spot in the Commodores' batting order.

It was just another indicator of how strong coach Tim Corbin's lineup is from top to bottom. The nation's home run leader, JJ Bleday, had a relatively quiet weekend, yet the national No. 2 seed outscored opponents 28-8 to send Vanderbilt to its ninth super regional.

Ohio State coach Greg Beals said the Commodores' lineup is as good as there is in college baseball.

"I haven't seen everybody in the country, but that one's pretty good," Beals said. "They're hitting .319 as a team. They got home runs, and they got stolen bases. They got a little bit of everything that they can do in that lineup, and that's what makes them tough."

Pitching has been Vanderbilt's biggest strength during most of Corbin's tenure. Now he has one of the best-hitting teams in college baseball history and it's chasing a fourth trip to the College World Series, hoping to add to its 2014 national title and 2015 national runner-up.

Infante's second home run — and Vandy's fourth in its regional final — set a school record with 87 this season. The Commodores not only hit for power, but their .319 batting average leads the Southeastern Conference and is fourth nationally. They've set school records for most RBIs (497), walks (341) and runs (529) with a few more marks within range for a team with the nation's most wins (52-10).

"I think whoever walks in here to play Vanderbilt better pack a lunch," Indiana State coach Mitch Hannahs said. "That's a very good team."



PHOTOS BY GEORGE WALKER IV, THE TENNESSEAN/AP

Vanderbilt's Julian Infante rounds third base after hitting a home run against Indiana State during a NCAA Tournament regional Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. Infante was named MVP of the regional.

Corbin notes Infante hit fourth and fifth as a freshman and that the senior now is tied for second on the team with 11 home runs this season. Ty Duvall, batting eighth, hit a grand slam in the regional clincher. Leadoff hitter Austin Martin (.410) is trying to become the first Commodore to bat above .400 since Warner Jones (.414) in 2004. Bleday leads five other hitters batting at least .294.

"As a coach when you're standing at third base, there's a comfort level every time someone gets to the plate," Corbin said.



Vanderbilt's Philip Clarke points to the sky after hitting a home run against Indiana State on Saturday.

MLB

Pirates slugger bounces back

After miserable season in 2018, Bell embracing simple approach

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

The conversations were polite but also respectfully blunt. Little small talk. No sugarcoating or coddling. Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Josh Bell would have seen right through it anyway.

So when newly hired hitting coaches Rick Eckstein and Jacob Cruz sat Bell down early in spring training and plotted a course to unlock Bell's potential following an uneven and borderline disappointing 2018, they didn't minimize his importance to a franchise whose narrow path to contention relies heavily on the 26-year-old's immense shoulders.

Instead, they leaned into it. "I think he was still unsure of what type of hitter he was," Cruz said. "(We) were telling him how we viewed him as an organization, the power hitter he can be."

The attributes were there. The hand-eye coordination. The strength. The smarts. The work ethic. Each powered by perfectionist not always suited for a game where moments of excellence are fleeting and purity is nonexistent.

Eckstein and Cruz had heard the reports. They'd read the stories. They'd watched the video. They saw a player who too often would abandon one approach in search of another when things went sideways, as they did often in 2018, when Bell's home run total plummeted from 26 to 12.

So they asked Bell to take a leap of faith. No more hitting 200 balls off the tee in the cage before heading outside for batting practice. No more vacillating between a 33-inch bat and a 35-inch. No more poring over video in search of yesterday's fix. No more blowing things up and starting over after going 0-for-4.



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Pirates first baseman Josh Bell rounds third after hitting a solo home run off Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Carlos Estevez during the seventh inning of a game on May 23 in Pittsburgh.

By the numbers

22

Number of doubles this season for Pirates first baseman Josh Bell, tops in the major leagues.

54

Number of RBIs this season for Bell, second in the major leagues.

.330

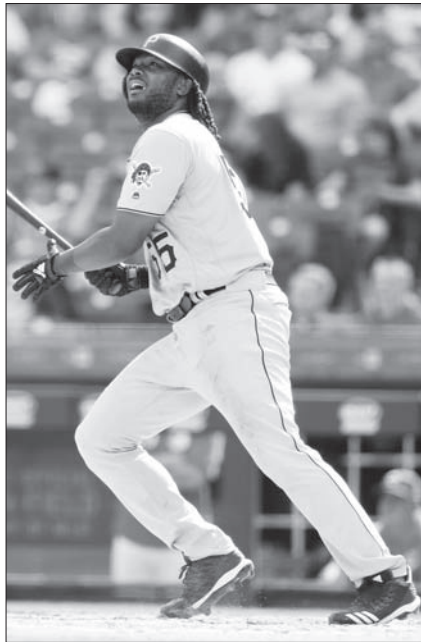
Batting average this season for Bell, seventh in the major leagues.

SOURCE: Associated Press

"Every day he comes in and does that simple routine and goes out there and trusts it," Cruz said. "We've helped him a little, but really he's taken ownership of it and it's started to show up in the game."

Not to mention the other reaches of ballparks and — on occasion — the Allegheny River.

His performance during a record-setting May — in which he became just the third player in history to have a dozen homers and a dozen doubles in the same month, joining Hall of Famers Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson — almost single-handedly kept



GARY LANDERS/AP

The Pittsburgh Pirates' Josh Bell is hitting home runs at a historic rate for the 138-year-old franchise, thanks to an approach that's centered on consistency and not constant tinkering.

the injury-ravaged Pirates hovering around .500 in the highly competitive NL Central.

Bell leads the major leagues in doubles (22) and is tied for first in RBIs (54). His 18 home runs are tied for sixth and his .330 batting average ranks eighth. He's a near lock for his first All-Star Game appearance and there's support to get him into the Home Run Derby after his player-of-the-month performance.

"With JB, you hear the word 'promise' a lot or 'prospect' or 'potential,'" teammate Jameson Taillon said. "It's cool to see him just kind of fulfill it."

Bell arrived at spring training this season eager for a fresh start, Eckstein and Cruz — both new to the Pirates — provided him with one.

They worried hitting hundreds of balls off the tee each day would ingrain bad habits, so they asked him to stop. They worried switching back and forth between bat lengths would disrupt his timing, so they suggested he take a 35-inch bat — one of the few players in the majors able to handle a piece of lumber that size — and stick with it.

They also streamlined their message. The season is a roller coaster, they told him. When things get bumpy, grab the bar

Scoreboard

American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	22	.633	—
Tampa Bay	36	23	.610	1½
Boston	32	29	.525	6½
Toronto	23	38	.377	15½
Baltimore	19	42	.311	19½

Central Division

Minnesota	40	20	.667	—
Cleveland	31	29	.508	9½
Chicago	29	32	.475	11½
Detroit	23	39	.367	16
Kansas City	19	42	.311	21½

West Division

Houston	42	21	.667	—
Texas	31	28	.525	9
Oakland	30	31	.492	11
Los Angeles	30	32	.484	11½
Seattle	26	39	.400	17

Friday's Games

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	37	22	.625	—
Atlanta	33	28	.541	1½
New York	29	32	.475	5½
Washington	28	33	.459	6½
Miami	23	36	.390	10½

Central Division

Chicago	34	26	.567	—
Milwaukee	34	28	.548	—
St. Louis	30	29	.508	3½
Pittsburgh	29	31	.483	5
Cincinnati	22	38	.367	6

West Division

Los Angeles	43	20	.683	—
Colorado	31	29	.517	10½
San Diego	31	31	.500	11½
Arizona	31	32	.492	12
San Francisco	25	35	.417	16½

Tuesday's games

Toronto 4, N.Y. Yankees 3	Cleveland 5, Minnesota 2	Detroit 9, Tampa Bay 6
Baltimore 12, Texas 11	Boston 8, Kansas City 3	Oakland 4, L.A. Angels 2
Houston 11, Seattle 2	Atlanta 12, Pittsburgh 5	Washington 9, Chicago White Sox 5
San Francisco 9, N.Y. Mets 3	10 innings	Miami 16, Milwaukee 0
Chicago Cubs 6, Colorado 3	Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 1	L.A. Dodgers 3, Arizona 0
Philadelphia 9, San Diego 6		

Wednesday's games

Toronto 11, N.Y. Yankees 7	Cleveland 5, Minnesota 7	Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 0
Texas 2, Baltimore 1	12 innings	Boston 8, Kansas City 3
L.A. Angels 10, Oakland 9	Seattle 14, Houston 1	Cincinnati at St. Louis, ppd.
Washington 6, Chicago White Sox 4	Arizona 3, L.A. Dodgers 2	11 innings
Philadelphia 7, San Diego 5	Pittsburgh 7, Arizona 0	N.Y. Mets 7, San Francisco 0
Milwaukee 5, Colorado 3	Chicago Cubs 9, Colorado 8	

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay at Detroit	Boston at Kansas City	Houston at Seattle
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto	Minnesota at Cleveland	Baltimore at Texas
Los Angeles at Angels	San Francisco at N.Y. Mets	Atlanta at Pittsburgh
Cincinnati at St. Louis	Miami at Milwaukee	Cleveland at Chicago Cubs
Washington at San Diego	St. Louis (Mikolas 4-5) at Chicago Cubs (TBD)	Cincinnati (Mahle 2-5) at Philadelphia (Elfin 5-5)

Cruz (Kelly 5-6) at Toronto (Stroman 3-7)	
Atlanta (TBD) at Miami (Urena 4-6)	Tampa Bay (TBD) at Boston (Porcello 4-5)

Minnesota (TBD) at Detroit (TBD)	Colorado (Senzatella 4-4) at N.Y. Mets (TBD)
N.Y. Yankees (TBD) at Cleveland (TBD)	Oakland (TBD) at Texas (Fam 7-4)
Baltimore (Ynoa 0-2) at Houston (Cole 5-5)	

Pittsburgh (Davis 0-0) at Milwaukee (Woodruff 7-3)	Chicago White Sox (Nova 3-5) at Kansas City (Bailey 4-6)
Los Angeles (Hasey 0-0)	Washington (Fedde 1-0) at San Diego (Margevicius 2-6)
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 5-0) at San Francisco (TBD)	

Saturday's games

Minnesota at Detroit	N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland	Tampa Bay at Boston
Oakland at Texas	Baltimore at Houston	Chicago White Sox at Kansas City
Seattle at L.A. Angels	Arizona at Cincinnati	Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Miami	Colorado at N.Y. Mets	Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
Washington at San Diego	L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco	

Calendar

June 13 — Detroit vs. Kansas City at Omaha, Neb.
June 15 — International amateur signing period closes.

HORSE RACING/GOLF



STEVE HELBER/AP

Jockey Tyler Gaffalione, right, reacts aboard War of Will, as they cross the finish line first to win the Preakness Stakes on May 18th at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Jockey Gaffalione's star rising

24-year-old looking to follow up Preakness victory with winning run at Belmont

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Tyler Gaffalione seems poised to add his name to the list of all-time great jockeys in horse racing that includes Ron Turcotte, Jerry Bailey, Gary Stevens, John Velazquez and Mike Smith.

While there may not be a specific moment when people in horse racing realized those jockeys would become all-time greats, Gaffalione has had two that stand out for Bailey: July 4, 2017 when the young rider tied the Hall of Famer's track record with seven victories in a day and May 18, 2019 when he won the Preakness aboard War of Will.

"I think the Preakness will probably be a defining mark in this young man's career," Bailey said.

It's early in a career that's reaching a crescendo for 24-year-old Gaffalione. The 2015 champion apprentice rider gets another chance to add to his already impressive resume when he rides War of Will in the Belmont on Saturday.

Gaffalione is third generation in the profession after grandfather Bobby rode more than 3,200 times and father Steve won over 800 races over 20 years. As a child, Tyler straddled the armchair of the couch to simulate riding a racehorse.

"I call Tyler the next Johnny Velazquez," trainer Mark Casse said. "He's an extremely good athlete. I think he can do a little bit of anything."

Gaffalione thinks about everything before and during a race, exhibiting the experience of a seasoned pro. During his mas-



GREGORY PAVAN/AP

Jockey Tyler Gaffalione, 24, has become horse racing's rising star jockey after winning the Preakness last month.

terful ride on Casse-trained and Gary Barber-owned War of Will in the Preakness, he kept the horse relaxed and made a perfect move when space opened up at the rail to glide through.

"Like a dream come true," Gaffalione said. "It's like everything that you could ever want to happen, happened."

Gaffalione's first race was Sept. 5, 2014 at Florida's Gulfstream Park.

He has had 6,448 mounts since with 1,094 victories and 23 graded stakes winners.

At 20, Gaffalione won what amounts to the Eclipse Award's rookie of the year honors when he won 217 races and more than \$5.8 million in earnings in 2015 facing

tough competition at Gulfstream.

"Mentally I'm so much stronger than I used to be," Gaffalione said. "I used to let things get to me when I'd lose races. I would get a little bummed out. ... I just always expected so much more of myself and I wanted to be the best rider possible."

Gaffalione built up a thick skin and also earned a lot of professional respect from Bailey, who's now an analyst for NBC Sports. Bailey congratulated Gaffalione on social media when he tied his wins record and shared some advice when they ran into each other at the track a few years back.

"I made a couple of suggestions to him just generally, not riding races per se, but just philosophically about the ascension and the timeline of his career and kind of where I thought his place was," Bailey said. "I told him I thought he belonged in New York. I believed that then. I believe it now."

Keeping his horse relaxed like in the Preakness is what Gaffalione considers the biggest key to the Belmont, which is the longest of the Triple Crown races at a mile and a half over the massive track known as "Big Sandy." Because he predominantly rides in Kentucky, Gaffalione hasn't been in a race at Belmont Park since Oct. 13.

Gaffalione, who appears unflappable in the face of chaos during a race, is set to embrace the challenge. There's no place he would rather be than riding a thoroughbred.

"I just love everything about it," Gaffalione said. "There's no better feeling. ... You just can't beat it."

Cantlay's past hints at promising future

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ohio — To the victor go the social media requests.

This proved far more difficult for Patrick Cantlay than his 64 at Muirfield Village, the lowest final round by a winner in 44 years of the Memorial and a performance that suggested his move to No. 8 in the world was about more than any mathematical formula.

Cantlay looked at the phone as the PGA Tour social media team tried to explain what it wanted — a short video saying what this victory meant to him. He stretched his arm and struggled to get the right angle while still being able to start the video. Finally, a tour employee held it for him. Cantlay smiled and said all the right things.

"First selfie?" someone cracked as he walked off the stage.

He doesn't do social media. Cantlay could easily fit the description of an old soul on young shoulders — except for his back.

It was a stress fracture in his back that kept him out of golf for the better part of three years — two straight years without playing one tournament — and kept him from the pace set by others from his own age group.

Jordan Spieth said it coming. Neither of them had PGA Tour status when Spieth and Cantlay were paired together in the opening two rounds of the 2013 Puerto Rico Open. Spieth got him by one shot each round and went on to tie for second, the important step that led to a PGA Tour card — and victory — later that year.

Cantlay, who had won the week before in Colombia on the Web.com Tour, was two months away from one swing that nearly ended his career, a pain he described as a knife in his back. That was the start of back trouble so severe there was no guarantee he would ever return.

He was 25 when he turned pro. He was 25 for his official rookie season in 2017 on the PGA Tour. Trying to manage his schedule after not having competed for two straight years, Cantlay played 11 times and still made it to the Tour Championship.

"If he had the full year this year, I would imagine he'd have been on the Presidents Cup team, no question," Spieth said at the TPC Boston that year. "He's extremely talented, and he's going to work his way up into the top 10 in the world, in my opinion."

And here he is.

Predictions are never easy in golf — Cantlay knows that better than anyone — and so where he goes remains a work in progress. It's where he has been that explains why his victory Sunday got so much attention, even if it wasn't worthy of the front of sports pages.

Anyone who saw Cantlay play in Ohio eight years ago would have expected a performance like this.



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Patrick Cantlay watches his putt on the 16th hole during the final round of the Memorial golf tournament on Sunday in Dublin, Ohio. Cantlay closed with an 8-under 64 for a two-shot victory, the lowest final round by a winner in tournament history.

His time at Muirfield Village was short. Cantlay received the Jack Nicklaus Award as the best player in college — as a freshman at UCLA — and posed for photos with Nicklaus, then got ready for U.S. Open qualifying at the sectional site filled with PGA Tour players. Cantlay was the only amateur to get one of the 16 spots.

Two weeks later, he was low amateur in the 2011 U.S. Open at Congressional, his first tournament against the best in the world. The following week, he set a PGA Tour record for amateurs with a 60 in the second round of the Travelers Championship. He was low amateur at the Masters in 2012. He made the cut at the U.S. Open again at Olympic Club (Spieth was low amateur that year).

Much like Spieth, he had a knack for delivering.

It was a tournament Cantlay did not win that might be the most revealing.

After the stabbing pain he felt at Colonial in 2013, he didn't play for three months as his status on the Web.com Tour money list kept dropping. Cantlay tried to play two more events to stay in the top 25 to earn a PGA Tour card and missed the cut in both, finishing 29th.

His last chance was a four-tournament series with a special money list. Cantlay played the first one and finished one shot behind Trevor Immelman. It was enough to get his card, and then he couldn't play again for nearly nine months.

"It really is my third year on tour," he said. "It's just taken me seven years to do it."

He ended that first full year with a victory in Las Vegas, and Cantlay was mildly irritated that more wins didn't follow.

"Being out for so long and to come back and play really well and win within a year ... I didn't think it would take me this long," he said.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP



RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/AP

Jamaica's Dominique Bond-flasza (16) and Nicole McClure (13) celebrate after Bond-flasza scored the game-winning penalty kick to defeat Panama in the third-place match of the CONCACAF Women's World Cup qualifying tournament last year. The Reggae Girlz, as they're known, are also the first Caribbean team to qualify for the Women's World Cup, which opens Friday in France.

Reggae Girlz set for debut

Jamaica gets help from a Marley to qualify for tournament

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

A few years ago, Jamaica didn't even have a women's national team. The squad was essentially disbanded after failing to make the field for the 2008 Olympics.

Enter Jamaica royalty — or as close as it gets.

Cedella Marley, daughter of reggae legend Bob Marley, made resurrecting the team a personal cause, and now Jamaica is headed to the Women's World Cup for the first time.

The Reggae Girlz, as they're known, are the first Caribbean team to make the field for soccer's premier tournament, which opens June 7 in France.

"We're the Cinderella," coach Hue Menzies said. "We have a chance to make our nation proud. The biggest thing for us now is to focus on our commitment and focus on the task."

Jamaica, No. 53 in the latest FIFA world rankings, opens the tournament on Sunday against 10th-ranked Brazil. The group also includes No. 6 Australia and No. 15 Italy.

The Reggae Girlz aren't happy just to have been included in the daunting group.

"Underdog role or not, I feel we are very capable of getting out of the group," said forward Olufolade Adedokun, who goes by Sade and is headed to USC in the fall. "With all the support that we have and what we have been able to conquer, we are very confident as we take this huge step."

But it's about way more than just goals and wins for Jamaica. The Reggae Girlz want to change the perception of the women's game in a nation that traditionally hasn't valued it. Like many

teams in the region, Jamaica's women have struggled for basic support, even equipment. There's been little or no compensation for players.

"It's actually a cause," Menzies said. "We want to make an impact socially."

The Jamaican women's national team first surfaced in 1991 for an international friendly against Haiti. Its best tournament finish before World Cup qualifying last year was fourth at the 2006 CONCACAF Gold Cup competition.

But after failing to make the field for either the 2007 World Cup or the 2008 Olympics, the team went dormant as the federation cut funding. Cedella Marley got wind of an effort to revive the team in 2014 and became its ambassador, a role she still holds.

Jamaica captured the imagination of fans last fall at the CONCACAF qualifying tournament in Texas with a surprising — and spirited — third-place finish behind the United States and Canada to earn the automatic bid for France. The tournament put a spotlight on Jamaica forward Khadija "Bunny" Shaw, who was runner-up to U.S. forward Alex Morgan for the CONCACAF 2018 Player of the Year award.

Then came another challenge: raising enough money to properly train and travel.

The team has been tireless in drumming up support, soliciting sponsors and holding fundraisers. There was a charity concert in Kingston in December, then a holiday giving campaign. Last week, the team played an exhibition game in Miramar, Fla., where there is a vibrant Jamaican community. It served as both training and a fundraiser.

The efforts have paid off:

The Reggae Girlz scored a new sponsorship in February with Wisyngo, a Jamaican beverage company, and paint Company Sherwin-Williams pitched in \$500,000 last month. Caribbean Airlines became the team's official airline in December.

And, of course, there's the backing of the Bob Marley Foundation, as well as the team's biggest cheerleader, Cedella.

Menzies, who was a volunteer coach for the team until recently because the federation didn't have the money to pay him, laughed when it was suggested that the Reggae Girlz were the "Cool Runnings" of soccer, referencing the 1993 film about the Jamaican bobsled team. To Menzies, it's bigger than that.

"It's been a movie for us ever since Cedella sat down with me four years ago, and said, 'Hey, Hue, I want you to make a change for us,'" Menzies said.

The Reggae Girlz already are overseas preparing for the World Cup. On Tuesday, Jamaica played its first exhibition against a European team, falling 3-2 to Scotland in Glasgow. Shaw, a former stand-out at Tennessee, scored both of Jamaica's goals.

The challenges the Reggae Girlz have faced before even landing on French soil have made them a team in the truest sense of the word, players said.

"Having these girls to represent Jamaica... it couldn't have been a better group of people. Individuals that come together and want to do the same thing — that are driven, that are passionate, that work hard," said defender Lauren Silver, who played at Florida. "This is a great group of women to represent this team at this time."

France aiming for Cup breakthrough

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press

France has an opportunity to translate dominance at the European club level to success on the World Cup stage.

With a highly experienced and skilled team, host France will be among the favorites at the women's tournament kicking off Friday, and that suits coach Corinne Diacre just fine.

She is happy shouldering high expectations, and reaching the July 7 final in Lyon is the minimum goal set by the French Football Federation. While the United States and Germany have won five World Cups between them, France has never reached the final.

This was also the case the last time France hosted a World Cup, and that tournament ended with Zinedine Zidane leading the men's team to victory in 1998. Zidane has since extended his own legacy by becoming a successful coach, leading Real Madrid to three straight Champions League titles.

Diacre, who chatted with Zidane at France's training camp last month, has champion players of her own.

Seven, in fact, from the Lyon team that recently crushed Barcelona 4-1 to win the women's Champions League for the fourth straight year and sixth time overall.

Among the seven are imposing center half Wendie Renard and midfielder Amandine Henry, who also captains Les Bleues. The buzz from another Lyon triumph is spilling over onto the national team and Diacre is eager to nurture that as much as possible in training.

"We are surfing on this Lyon wave because they have brought another title along with them," Diacre said. "They bring us so much joie de vivre. It's down to us to do the same as they did, and go all the way."

France's Group A opener is against South Korea on Friday in Paris.

Before that game, Diacre had two exhibitions in which she evaluated one or two players for inclusion against South Korea.

"If there are still one or two players who can put a bit of doubt in my mind, so much the better," Diacre said. "I've got 14 players who are in contention to start."

France also faced Norway on June 12 in Nice and then Nigeria on June 17 in Rennes. Initially, Diacre's team is likely to line up in a 4-2-3-1 formation with Montpellier's Valerie Gauvin at center forward.

Gaetane Thiney, who has scored 58 goals in 154 international appearances, will likely be behind Gauvin, flanked by Lyon's prolific Eugenie Le Sommer on the left (74 goals in 159 appearances) and Paris Saint-Germain's Kadidiatu Diani on the right.

With 20 goals in 108 appearances, Renard is the undisputed leader of the back four, and like

Live on AFN-Sports

France vs. South Korea
9 p.m. Friday CET
4 a.m. Sunday JKT

Germany vs. China
3 p.m. Saturday CET
10 p.m. Saturday JKT

Spain vs. South Africa
6 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

Norway vs. Nigeria
9 p.m. Saturday CET
4 a.m. Sunday JKT

Australia vs. Italy
1 p.m. Sunday CET
8 p.m. Sunday JKT

Brazil vs. Jamaica
3:30 p.m. Sunday CET
10:30 p.m. Sunday JKT

England vs. Scotland
6 p.m. Sunday CET
1 a.m. Monday JKT

Henry, holds iconic status on the team.

But that's more because of their achievements at the club level, and Henry wants to reach the pinnacle of the women's sport.

"When I discovered the France team it was in '98, when France won the World Cup," the 29-year-old Henry said. "I said to myself: 'Wow, this is so good. I also want to win trophies.'"

Like many others back then, she was mesmerized by Zidane's skills.

"Especially since he played in midfield and then I started out in midfield," said Henry, who made her international debut at 18. "I didn't really try to imitate him, but the aura he gave off was so special."

Henry thinks her time may have come.

"Winning a World Cup would be huge, and there's no bigger dream than winning in your own country," she said. "When I sing (the national anthem) La Marseillaise, I want to cry. You are representing the elite of your sport. ... A lot of people would love to be in our position."

Five years ago, Diacre took charge of second-tier team Clermont, becoming the first woman to coach a men's team in a competitive match in France.

Now her task is becoming the first to lead Les Bleues to World Cup success.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Scoreboard

Women's World Cup

First round						
GROUP A						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
France	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0

Friday
At Paris
France vs. South Korea, AFN Sports, 2 p.m. Friday CET; 7 p.m. Friday JKT

Saturday						
At Reims, France						
Norway vs. Nigeria						
Wednesday, June 12						
At Nice, France						
France vs. Norway						
At Grenoble, France						
Nigeria vs. South Korea						
Monday, June 17						
At Rennes, France						
France vs. Nigeria						
At Reims, France						
South Korea vs. Norway						

GROUP B						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday						
At Le Havre, France						
China vs. South Africa						
At Rennes, France						
Germany vs. China						

Wednesday, June 12						
At Valenciennes, France						
Germany vs. Spain						

Thursday, June 13						
At Paris						
South Africa vs. China						
Monday, June 17						
At Montpellier, France						
Germany vs. South Africa						
At Le Havre, France						
China vs. Spain						

GROUP C						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 9						
At Valenciennes, France						
Australia vs. Italy						
At Grenoble, France						
Brazil vs. Jamaica						
Thursday, June 13						
At Montpellier, France						
Australia vs. Italy						
Friday, June 14						
At Reims, France						
Jamaica vs. Italy						
Tuesday, June 18						
At Grenoble, France						
Australia vs. Jamaica						
At Valenciennes, France						
Italy vs. Brazil						

GROUP D						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
England	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 9						
At Nice, France						
England vs. Scotland						
Monday, June 10						
At Paris						
Argentina vs. Japan						
Friday, June 14						
At Rennes, France						
Japan vs. Scotland						
At Le Havre, France						
England vs. Argentina						
Wednesday, June 19						
At Nice, France						
Japan vs. England						
At Paris						
Scotland vs. Argentina						

GROUP E						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroun	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0

Monday, June 10						
At Montpellier, France						
Canada vs. Cameroun						
Tuesday, June 11						
At Le Havre, France						
New Zealand vs. Netherlands						
Saturday, June 15						
At Valenciennes, France						
Netherlands vs. Cameroun						
At Grenoble, France						
Canada vs. New Zealand						
Thursday, June 20						
At Reims, France						
Netherlands vs. Canada						
At Montpellier, France						
Cameroun vs. New Zealand						

GROUP F						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday, June 11						
At Rennes, France						
Chile vs. Sweden						
At Reims, France						
United States vs. Thailand						
Sunday, June 16						
At Paris						
United States vs. China						
At Nice, France						
Sweden vs. Thailand						
Thursday, June 20						
At Le Havre, France						
Sweden vs. United States						
At Rennes, France						
Thailand vs. China						

The backstory to a leader

As the US team evolves, Sauerbrunn takes on a more vocal role

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

LONDON — As the U.S. women's national team's defense has evolved over the past four years, so has Becky Sauerbrunn.

Normally quiet and studious, the center back who is about to embark on her third Women's World Cup has embraced her role as a veteran and has started to use her voice, both as a leader and as a mentor to the younger defenders.

"Obviously, she's a player with tremendous experience and just a player that really kind of embodies what it means to be part of this team. She's a great professional and very popular with her teammates because of how she contributes both on and off the field," coach Jill Ellis said. "She's a fierce competitor and one of the nicest people that you'll ever meet."

Sauerbrunn anchors a back line that has changed significantly since the group won the World Cup in Canada four years ago.

That unit was stellar: The United States went 540 minutes without conceding a goal, the longest streak in the tournament since Germany's record 679 scoreless minutes from 2003-11.

Hope Solo allowed just three total goals and won her second straight Golden Glove for the tournament's top goalkeeper. The backbone included Sauerbrunn, Meghan Klingenberg, Julie Johnston and Ali Krieger.

The faces alongside Sauerbrunn in France will change. Johnston, now going by her married name Ertz, has moved up into the midfield. Abby Dahlkemper, Crystal Dunn and Kelley O'Hara are expected to round out the starting four.

Solo is gone, dismissed from the team following the 2016 Olympics. Alyssa Naecher will likely start in goal during the tournament.



DAVID VINCENT/AP

United States defender Becky Sauerbrunn during the anthem prior to a women's international friendly match in France against France, in Le Havre, France. Sauerbrunn anchors a back line that has changed significantly since the team won the World Cup in Canada four years ago.



ANDY JACOBSON/AP

Becky Sauerbrunn, left, defends against Jamaica forward Jody Brown during the second half of a CONCACAF women's World Cup qualifying tournament match in Frisco, Texas, last October. Sauerbrunn, the veteran center back for the U.S., is about to embark on her third Women's World Cup and is taking on more leadership with the team.

Sauerbrunn said the team's focus in recent years has shifted players toward the attack, prompting the defense to come up with new ways of doing things.

"In 2015, it wasn't just the backbone. I think in general the whole team played a more defensive formation, and a defensive way of playing. We've changed that within the last four years and I think we're now a more attacking group," she said.

"So when you're putting a lot of numbers forward in the attack, you just have to defend a different way. So it's very difficult to compare because we're playing two different styles of soccer."

Sauerbrunn, 33, has been with the national team since 2008 and has 158 appearances with the team.

In addition to playing on the 2011 and 2015 World Cup squads, she was part of the U.S. team that won the gold medal at the London Olympics. She also plays with the Utah Royals of the National Women's Soccer League.

On the national team, she is a mentor to the younger defenders, including Dahlkemper and Tiarna Davidson, who was named last year's Young Player of the Year.

"I feel like I have taken on more of a vocal role. But comes with organizing the people around me, you're obviously have to be very vocal. That is a World Cup setting, you don't hear a lot, so you can't really speak beyond 15 yards to another person. And so it's really everyone's responsibility to kind of be looking around and aware where our players are, where their players are, because it comes down to it, in some of those atmospheres, you can't hear anything. But in those moments when you can say something, yes, I feel like that is a role that I have had to step into, and that I'm happy to step into."

She's also embraced a more vocal role off

the field. She was among the five teammates — joining Solo, Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd and Megan Rapinoe — who filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that accused the U.S. Soccer Federation of wage discrimination.

The players recently dropped the complaint to file a federal lawsuit against the federation, alleging "institutionalized gender discrimination" that includes pay inequity to that of their counterparts on the men's national team.

"I feel that as I've gotten older, I've gotten more comfortable with myself and my opinions, and voicing those opinions. I always feel like I've been a good listener, and as I've gotten older I feel like I do partake more in discussions and in the fights that we, as a team, support. And I do think it's kind of an evolution for me. It mirrors the evolution of me as a player, but it's definitely the evolution of me as a person," she said.

Speaking to The Associated Press from the team's training camp in north London, Sauerbrunn said she wants to leave a legacy that will linger long after she's gone.

"If I had to think about what I would want to be known for, it's being a team-first player, I always wanted to do whatever it took to make the team better," she said. "And that goes for on and off the field."

FRENCH OPEN

US teen Anisimova shocks champ Halep

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Amanda Anisimova smacked one last backhand winner to complete her upset of defending champion Simona Halep in the French Open quarterfinals, flung her racket and covered her mouth with both hands.

Eyes wide, Anisimova then spread her arms with palms up and said, "What?!"

In a tournament filled with surprises, Anisimova provided the latest Thursday. Just 17 and ranked merely 51st, yet possessing the mindset and men of someone much more experienced and accomplished, the American withstood a late charge by Halep and won 6-2, 6-4 to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

"I don't think it will sink in, at least not for today. Yeah, I mean, it's crazy," said Anisimova, who was born in New Jersey to Russian parents and moved to Florida when she was 3. "I really can't believe the result today. And getting the opportunity to play against Simona, that's amazing. But how it ended is even crazier to me."

That's a fair assessment of the entire tournament. Serena Williams, No. 1 Naomi Osaka and No. 2 Karolina Pliskova lost in the third round; Angelique Kerber and Caroline Wozniacki were gone in the first.

The highest-seeded player in the semifinals is No. 8 Ash Barty, the Australian who will face Anisimova. Barty advanced by beating No. 14 Madison Keys of the United States 6-3, 7-5.

"I felt," Barty said, "like I was in control."

The other semifinal is No. 26 Johanna Konta of Britain against unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic.

Because rain washed out all play Wednesday, the women's

Scoreboard

Thursday

At Stade Roland Garros
Paris
Prize: \$48 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Men

Quarterfinals

Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Alexander Zverev (5), Germany, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.
Dominic Thiem (4), Austria, def. Karen Khachanov (10), Russia, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Women

Quarterfinals

Ashleigh Barty (8), Australia, def. Madison Keys (14), United States, 6-3, 7-5.
Amanda Anisimova, United States, def. Simona Halep (3), Romania, 6-2, 6-4.

Doubles

Men

Kevin Krawietz, Germany and Andreas Mies, Germany, def. Guido Pella, Argentina and Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, 7-5, 6-3.

Women

Quarterfinals

Elise Mertens, Belgium and Aryna Sabalenka (6), Belarus, def. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine and Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 7-5, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles

Semifinals

Ivan Dodig, Croatia and Latisha Chan, Taiwan, def. Bruno Soares, Brazil and Nicole Melichar (1), United States, 6-2, 6-1.
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada and Mate Pavic (2), Croatia, def. Aisam Qureshi, Pakistan and Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 10-8.

semifinals — normally Thursday, one after another in the main stadium — will be played simultaneously on the second- and third-largest courts Friday morning. The biggest arena will host the men's semifinals: Rafael Nadal vs. Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic vs. Dominic Thiem. It's the first time the top four men's seeds are the last four standing at a major tournament since the 2013 Australian Open.

Djokovic stretched his Grand Slam winning streak to 26 matches as he pursues a fourth consecutive major trophy, beating Alexander Zverev 7-5, 6-2, 6-2. Thiem eliminated No. 10 seed Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

"Controlling the points was the key, I think," said 2018 French



MICHEL EULER/AP

American Amanda Anisimova celebrates winning her French Open quarterfinal match against Simona Halep on Thursday in Paris.

Open runner-up Thiem, who made only 12 unforced errors, 25 fewer than Khachanov. "I didn't miss a lot today."

Not only has none of the remaining women won a Grand Slam trophy, none has participated in a major final.

"Well," said Halep, who was seeded third, "nothing surprises me anymore in tennis."

Still, Anisimova's rapid rise is noteworthy.

Already the first tennis player born in the 2000s to get to a Slam quarterfinal, she's now the young-

est U.S. woman into the semis at Roland Garros since Jennifer Capriati was 14 in 1990.

Anisimova or Vondrousova could each become the first teenager since Iva Majoli in 1997 to win the French Open, where the slow clay courts require patience from shot to shot, the movement and endurance to get to ball after ball, the smarts to construct points.

Anisimova certainly checked all those boxes Thursday. Facing a former No. 1 and major champ, in the tournament's largest arena, the teenager was poised as can be.

"She was pretty calm," said Halep, who acknowledged feeling the stress of trying to win a second consecutive title in Paris. "She showed that she's able to do good things and big things."

Yet to drop a set through five matches, Anisimova plays with a confident, take-it-to-the-opponent style. She doesn't rely on power so much as precision, depositing what she's called "effortless shots" near lines and often wrong-footing Halep.

And to think: It was in 2016 that Anisimova was the junior runner-up at Roland Garros at 14.

"I actually kind of miss juniors, but I mean, this is a new phase," she said, shrugging. "Obviously I respect (Halep) a lot. But I know I'm capable of doing a lot, and I know I can play very well. I mean, I never doubt my abilities. Today that showed."

Did it ever.

"For a 17-year-old to play that well," said Chris Evert, who won seven of her 18 major trophies in Paris, "is pretty awesome."

Most impressive, perhaps, was

this: Halep had won 16 return games in a row coming in, but Anisimova saved 6 of 7 break points.

A seven-game run that began at 2-2 in the early going put Anisimova up a set and 3-0 in the second. But from 4-1, Halep made one last push, getting to 4-all.

"Nerves," Anisimova said, "were kicking in a bit."

In the next game, she pushed a backhand long and chewed on a thumbnail. That gave Halep a break chance, one point from serving to force a third set.

But it was Anisimova who steeled herself, Halep who stumbled. A forehead into the net, a return that sailed wide and another miscue by Halep let Anisimova hold, before she broke to end it.

"I'm really happy with my performance," Anisimova said, "because this is one of the best matches I've ever played."

There's not a long list.

After all, this was just the 43rd tour-level match of Anisimova's nascent career, only her fourth major tournament. It was amusing to hear her mention how many coaches she's had "throughout my lifetime."

Barty, who is 23, missed about two years on tour when she switched sports and played cricket. She's progressing quickly now, though: Her first major quarterfinal came in January at the Australian Open, and now she's gone a step further. Against Keys, the 2017 U.S. Open runner-up, Barty used her backhand slice to great effect, helping create errors on the other side of the net.



MICHEL EULER/AP

Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Alexander Zverev during their quarterfinal match Thursday at the French Open in Paris. Djokovic won 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

NBA FINALS



BEN MARGOT/AP

Toronto Raptors head coach Nick Nurse speaks after Wednesday's Game 3 win over the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals.

Notes: Toronto's Nurse no ordinary rookie head coach

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these NBA Finals.

The moment has not been too big for Nurse or the Raptors.

Toronto leads the title series 2-1 after a 123-109 win over injury-depleted Golden State on Wednesday night, an outcome that puts the two-time defending NBA champions in trouble. The maestro of the best season in Toronto history is a 51-year-old NBA coaching rookie, one who's made plenty of right moves.

"He looks young," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "But he's pretty old."

Nurse might have been an unknown to casual NBA fans when he got the job a year ago following the firing of his former boss in Toronto, Dwane Casey. Nurse was an assistant on Casey's staff, largely credited with running things on the offensive side of the ball. He had good relationships with players, but the task of replacing someone who was the NBA's coach of the year and got fired anyway was daunting nonetheless.

He has handled it with ease.

"Each game's critical, and the next one will be as critical as (Game 3) was," Nurse said. "So it's been like that all through the playoffs, and we just got to guard and play who is out there. That's all we can do."

The guy he's going against has eight rings already. Steve Kerr won five as a player, has three more from his first four seasons as coach of the Warriors, said very much has a chance at a fourth in five seasons.

But this is no coaching mismatch.

"I've watched Nick closely," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, the president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, said earlier in the series. "We played against him twice this year. He's terrific in making adjustments and I love the way he's approached the entire season."

For a first-timer, no, it wouldn't be easy.

Thing is, Nurse is no ordinary rookie.

He's won championships—four

‘He looks young, but he’s pretty old.’

Kyle Lowry

Toronto Raptors point guard, on 51-year-old head coach Nick Nurse

of them, two in the British league, two more in what's now called the G League. That's not the NBA, of course, but there's a progression that he's followed, a long slow path that saw him coaching teams most people have never heard of like the NLA's Grand View University, Telindus Oostende in Belgium, the Oklahoma Storm of the USBL.

"Some pretty remote places," Nurse said.

He got tons of attention for throwing a box-and-one on Warriors star Stephen Curry late in Game 2 of this series. Some would say that's an unconventional move. Not for Nurse. He spent one season basically full-court pressing the whole time so he could collect the data. He's been known to court certain shots in practice as four-pointers, to emphasize the need for proper spacing.

He's part coach, part chemist.

"Like a laboratory," Nurse said.

The lab on Wednesday night was Oracle Arena. The Raptors survived a 47-point night from Curry and prevailed over a Golden State team without Kevin Durant, Kevon Looney and Klay Thompson. Looney's season is over. Durant may be back for Game 4. Thompson figures to be back. The Warriors are almost certainly going to get boosts.

"Five guys are going to be out there," Nurse said. "You really can't worry about that."

It's still too early to tell whether Nurse and the Raptors can pull this off.

But Lowry knows his coach will be ready.

"His mind for the game has been special, and the growth throughout the year has been pretty good for him," Lowry said. "He's not a first-time head coach. He's a first-time NBA head coach."

Raptors top Curry, Warriors

Golden State PG's 47-point effort not enough in Game 3

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — For every amazing shot in a career night by Stephen Curry on his home court, Kawhi Leonard, Kyle Lowry and Danny Green kept finding dazzling answers of their own.

The Toronto Raptors decided to "let it rip," and now they have the momentum again in these back-and-forth NBA Finals.

Leonard scored 30 points on a night Curry went off for a playoff-best 47, and the Raptors beat the banged-up Golden State Warriors 123-109 on Wednesday for a 2-1 series lead.

Curry also had eight rebounds and seven assists but couldn't do it all for the two-time defending champions, down starters Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson and key backup big man Kevon Looney because of injuries.

"They outplayed us. They deserved it," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I'm very proud of our effort, and now we've just got to bounce back and hopefully get back in here Friday night and hopefully get a little healthier and get some guys back."

Splash Brother Thompson missed his first career playoff game after straining his left hamstring late in Game 2, while Looney is out the rest of the series after a cartilage fracture on his right side near the collarbone that also happened Sunday. Durant, a two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP, has been sidelined nearly a month because of a strained right calf.

Game 4 is Friday at Oracle Arena, where Warriors fans will be rooting for the returns of Durant and Thompson.

Before the game, one of the Raptors wrote "let it rip" on the locker room board.

Lowry contributed 23 with five three-pointers and Green had 18 points with six threes after Pascal Siakam got the Raptors rolling early. Toronto shot 52.4% and made 17 from deep.

"I give our guys a lot of credit. I thought we answered a lot of runs," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Each time they chipped, we kind of answered back. And that's kind of what you got to do if you're going to keep your lead."

The Warriors trailed 96-83 going into the final quarter. Curry's three free throws at 10:37 made it a seven-point game before Lowry hit two-backets by Serge Ibaka.

"Every time we made a run or got the crowd into it they either made a tough three or there was a tough foul call and they slowed the tempo down or something went their way," Curry said. "You have to tie your cap to all the guys who made pivotal plays in the right times."



BEN MARGOT/AP

Warriors guard Stephen Curry led all scorers with a career-playoff high 47 points in Game 3 of the NBA Finals, but it wasn't enough for hobbled Golden State, which fell 118-109 to the Toronto Raptors in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday.

Fan shoves Toronto G Lowry, is ejected

OAKLAND, Calif. — A fan seated courtside for Game 3 of the NBA Finals was ejected after shoving Kyle Lowry when the Toronto Raptors star crashed into a row of seats while trying to save a ball from going out of bounds.

Lowry scored 23 points and made several big shots in a 123-109 victory Wednesday night that gave the Raptors a 2-1 lead over Golden State. There was as much buzz about Lowry's dust-up with the fan as his offense.

"There's no place for that," Lowry said. "He had no reason to reach over two seats and then say some vulgar language to me. There's no place for people like that in our league."

Warriors spokesman Raymond Ridder and security officials confirmed the fan who shoved Lowry was ejected and escorted from Oracle Arena.

The incident overshadowed a breakout game for Lowry. He scored 15 points in the first half and finished 8-for-16 from the floor with five three-pointers. Lowry also had nine assists and four rebounds.

— Associated Press

Finals

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

Toronto 2, Golden State 1
Toronto 118, Golden State 109
Golden State 109, Toronto 104
Wednesday: Toronto 118, Golden State 109

Location: at Golden State. **APN-Sports**, 3 a.m. Saturday, CET; 10 a.m. Saturday, JKT.

Monday: at Toronto
xThursday, June 13: at Golden State
xSunday, June 16: at Toronto

Calendar

June 10 — NBA Draft early entry, entrant withdrawal deadline (5 p.m. EDT).

June 20 — NBA Draft.
July 5-15 — NBA Summer League, Las Vegas.

Wednesday Raptors 118, Warriors 109

GOLDEN STATE — Igoudala 4-8 1-2 11, DrGreen 6-14 3-7 17, Cousins 1-7 2-3 4, Curry 14-31 13-47, Livingston 1-4 2-2 4, McKinnie 1-4 0-1 3, Jerebko 1-6 3-4 6, Bell 1-1 0-0 2, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Boat 3-4 0-0 6, Cook 4-9 1-1 9, Evans 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 36-91 25-90 109.

TORONTO — Leonard 9-17 10-11 30, Siakam 8-16 2-2 18, Gasol 6-11 4-4 17, Lowry 8-16 2-2 23, DrGreen 6-10 0-0 18, Curry 14-31 13-47, Livingston 1-4 2-2 4, McKinnie 1-4 0-1 3, Jerebko 1-6 3-4 6, Bell 1-1 0-0 2, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Boat 3-4 0-0 6, Cook 4-9 1-1 9, Evans 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 36-91 25-90 109.

Toronto
Golden State 29 23 31 26-109
Three-Point Goals—Toronto 17-38 (DrGreen 6-10, Lowry 5-9, VanVleet 3-6, Leonard 2-6, Gasol 1-4, Siakam 0-3), Golden State 12-36 (Curry 6-14, DrGreen 2-6, Igoudala 2-6, Jerebko 1-3, McKinnie 1-4, Cousins 0-1, Cook 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 40 (Siakam 9), Golden State 41 (Curry 8). Assists—Toronto 30 (Lowry 9), Golden State 25 (Curry 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 22, Golden State 21. Technicals—Toronto coach Raptors (Defensive three second) 2. A-15,996 (19,596).

SPORTS



Teen dream

17-year-old Anisimova upsets third-seeded Halep » **Page 62**

NBA FINALS

Hitting all the right notes

Raptors maestro Nurse plays winning tune

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif.

Toronto coach Nick Nurse plays to the beat of his own drum.

And that's not even one of the instruments that he's messing around with these days.

Nurse's office in Toronto has a guitar stand on one side of his desk and a piano on the other. He's trying to master both; the guitar travels with him on the road and he's been known to strum it while studying film. The piano doesn't exactly fit in the overhead storage bin of the plane, so it stays behind.

Nurse says he's not any good yet.

His team, however, is making plenty of beautiful music so far in

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Toronto Raptors head coach Nick Nurse

FRANK GUINN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP;
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN VENABLE/Stars and Stripes



Pirates' Bell bouncing back after down year » **Page 58**

